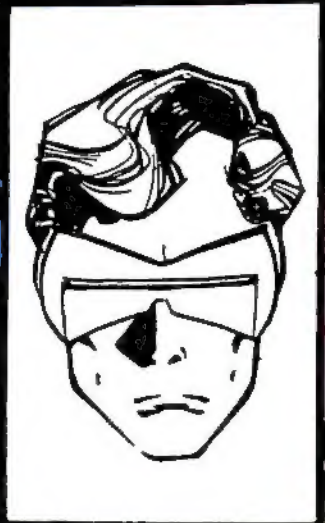




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X-FACTOR

WATCH OUT, WORLD!
ARE YOU READY FOR
INFECTIA
AND THE **ANTI-BODIES??**



Stan Lee presents

FAME!

HAROLD--
NO!

BUT,
INFECTIA,
YOU MADE
ME INTO A
MUTANT.
DIDN'T
YOU...?

NO...
YOU'RE
NOT A
MUTANT. I
EXPLAINED
THAT TO
YOU!

YOU WEREN'T
BORN WITH AN
ALTERED GENETIC
STRUCTURE. I
ALTERED IT
FOR YOU...

WRITER LOUISE SIMONSON PENCILER WALTER SIMONSON INKER BOB WIACEK LETTERER JOE ROSEN COLORIST PETRA SCOTSESE EDITOR BOB HARRAS EDITOR IN CHIEF TOM DEFALCO

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I KNOW THAT, INFECTIA, BUT YOU SAID EXCEPT FOR THAT, I'D BE LIKE A MUTANT. AND I WAS ONLY DOING...

...WHAT MUTANTS DO...

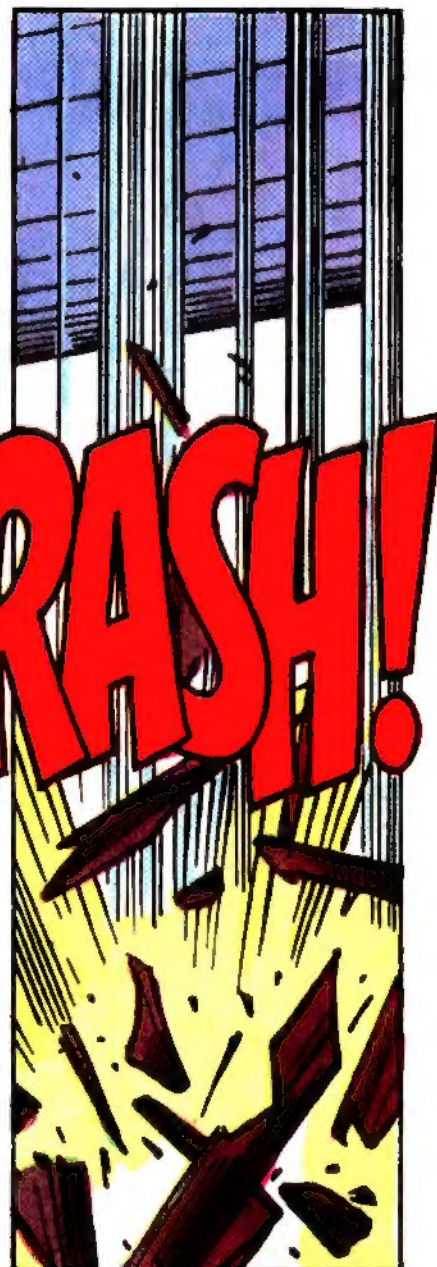
I TOLD YOU TO WAIT... NOT TO SQUANDER THE POWER I GAVE YOU 'TIL I GAVE THE WORD.



DO YOU THINK GIVING PEOPLE POWERS TAKES NO THOUGHT... NO EFFORT AT ALL?



AND NOW JUST LOOK AT YOU... A WASTE OF PERFECTLY GOOD DESIGNER GENES.



HONESTLY... I DID TELL YOU IT WOULDN'T LAST FOREVER, HAROLD. I JUST DIDN'T TELL YOU THAT YOU WOULDN'T.

DARN-- NOW I'LL HAVE TO GO TO ALL THE TROUBLE OF MAKING ANOTHER ONE.

WHY DOES EVERYBODY ALWAYS DO WHATEVER THEY WANT TO? WHY DOESN'T ANYBODY EVER THINK OF ME?

LATER, MERE BLOCKS AWAY, REPORTERS CROWD ONTO A RUN-DOWN MANHATTAN PIER, EAGER TO HOLD AN IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE...

A FEW DAYS AGO, YOUR SHIP CAME TO LIFE... BEGAN FIGHTING YOU...

A BOMB IN ITS HULL NEARLY DESTROYED THE CITY!

WHAT GUARANTEES CAN WE GIVE OUR READERS THAT SOMETHING LIKE THAT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN?

IS IT TRUE THAT THE CITY HAS THREATENED A SUIT FOR DAMAGES?

HOW DO YOU ANSWER PEOPLE WHO SUGGEST THAT X-FACTOR MEANS WELL, BUT THAT YOU MUTANTS HAVE CAUSED MORE HARM THAN GOOD?

WHY, WE TELL THEM THAT YOU CAN'T BLAME X-FACTOR FOR THE ACTIONS OF A FEW EVIL MUTANTS...

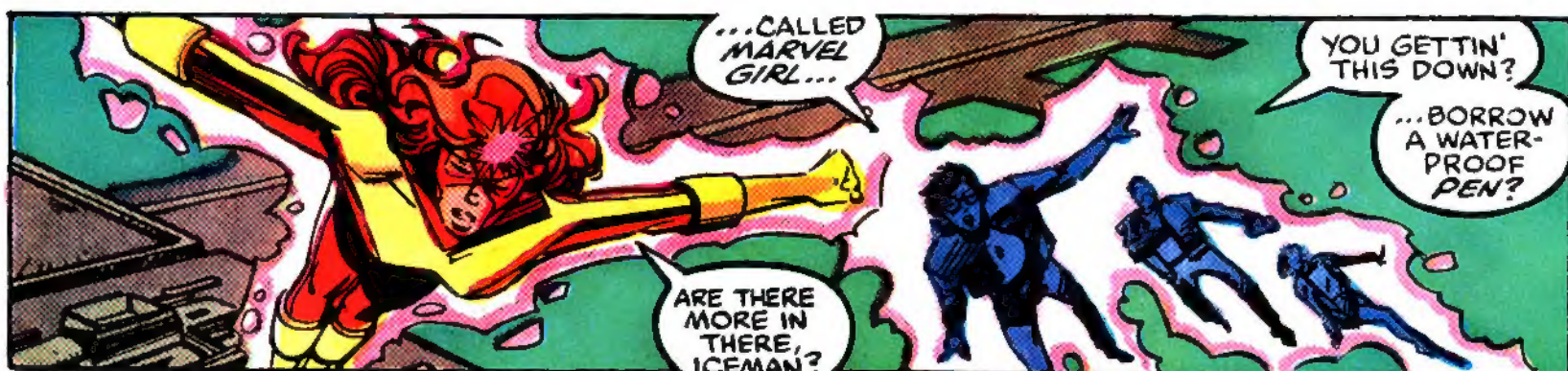
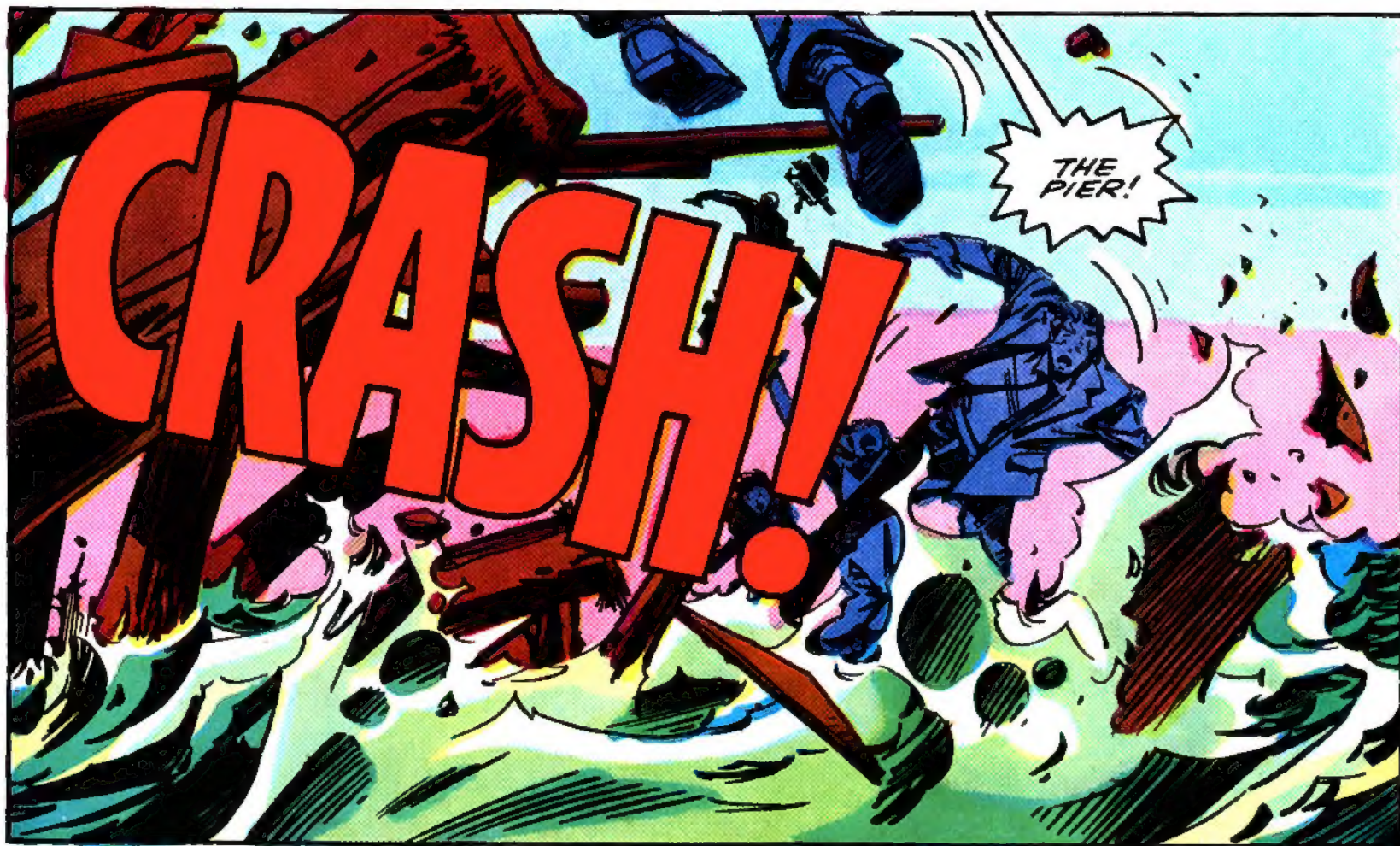
...JUST LIKE NONE OF YOU LAW-ABIDING REPORTERS WOULD WANT TO BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIONS OF THE MAD SERIAL SUBWAY-SNIPE!

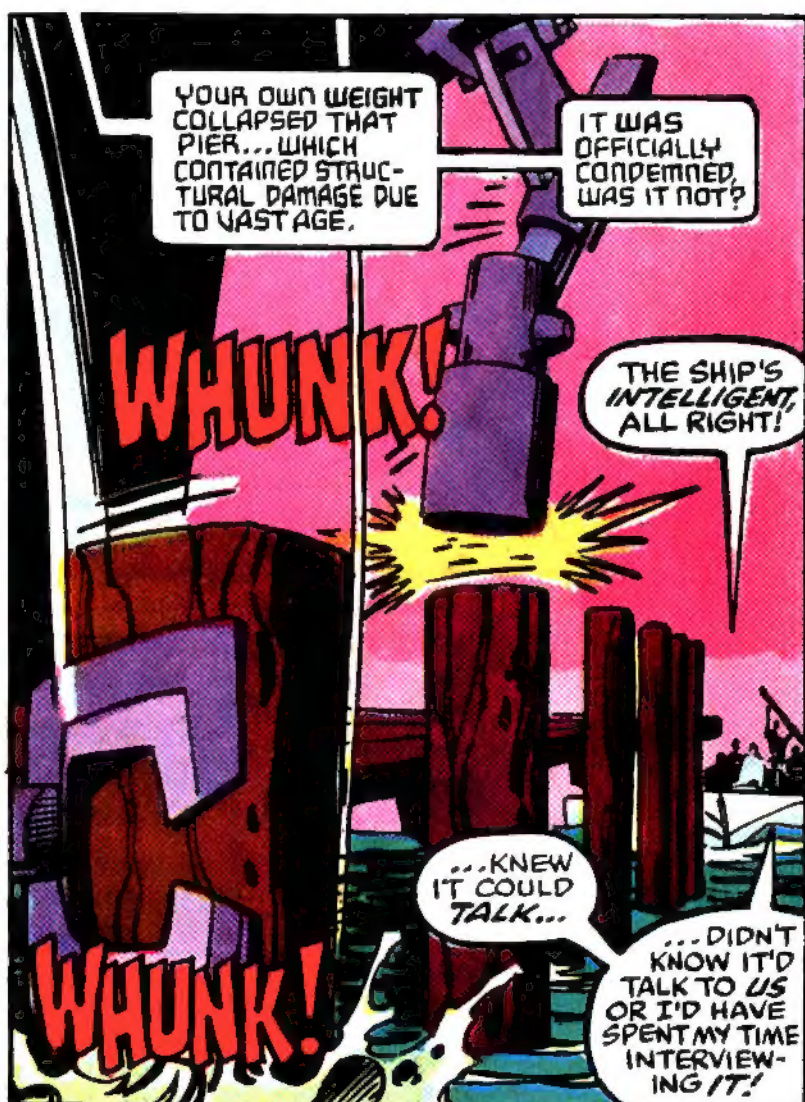
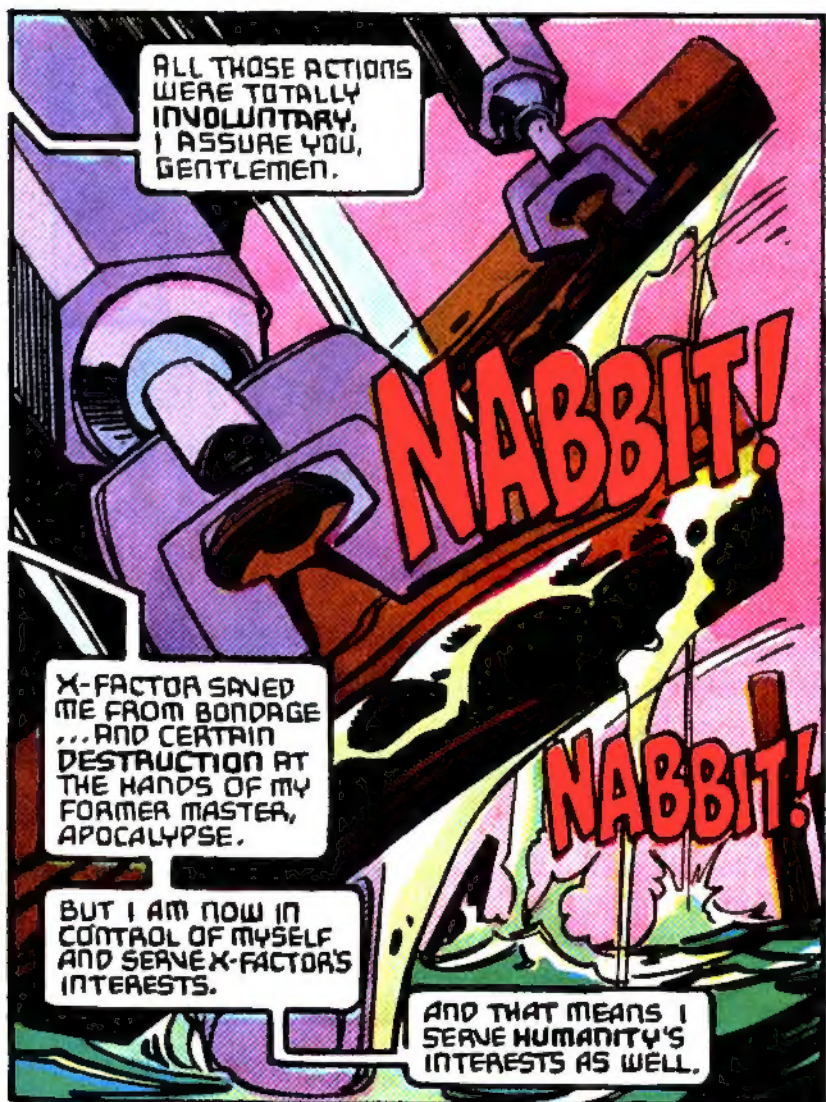
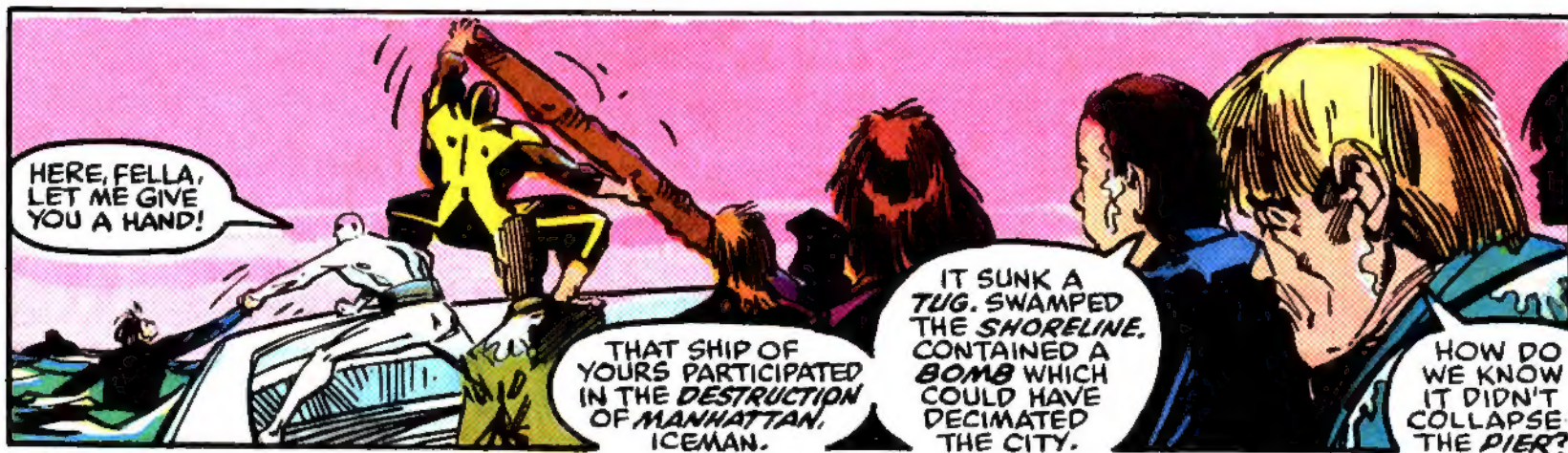
X-FACTOR'S MISSION IS TO REFLECT THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN AND PROTECT BOTH HUMANS AND MUTANTS FROM HARM... WHATEVER THE SOURCE.

IF PROTECTION'S YOUR GAME, WHY HAVE INSURANCE RATES SHOT SKY HIGH ALL OVER THE CITY...?

MY SOURCES SAY THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO RISE AS LONG AS THAT SHIP REMAINS HERE!

CREEAK!
SPLASH!







YET WE ALL ARE CLEARLY AWARE OF THE... NERVOUSNESS... MY PRESENCE AND VAST SIZE MIGHT CAUSE.

AND, TO REASSURE EVERYONE, MY NEW MASTERS ARE GOING TO MOVE ME OUT OVER THE ATLANTIC OCEAN...



...TO FREE THE PEOPLE OF THIS GREAT CITY FROM ANY CONCERN THAT MY PRESENCE HERE MIGHT PRESENT A DANGER.

NO, NOT YET.

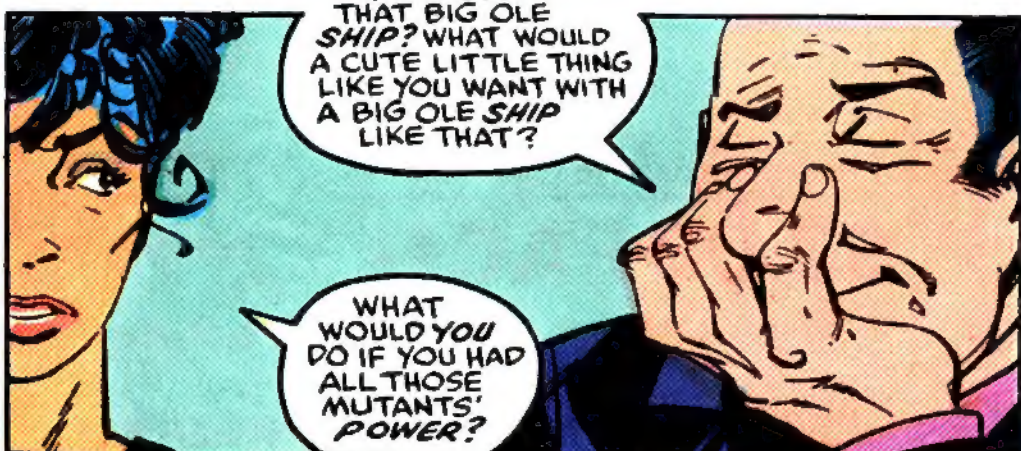
THEY CAN'T MOVE IT YET.



THOSE MUTANTS'VE GOT MORE POWER THAN THE ELECTRIC COMPANY, HONEY. THEY CAN DO ANYTHING THEY WANT.

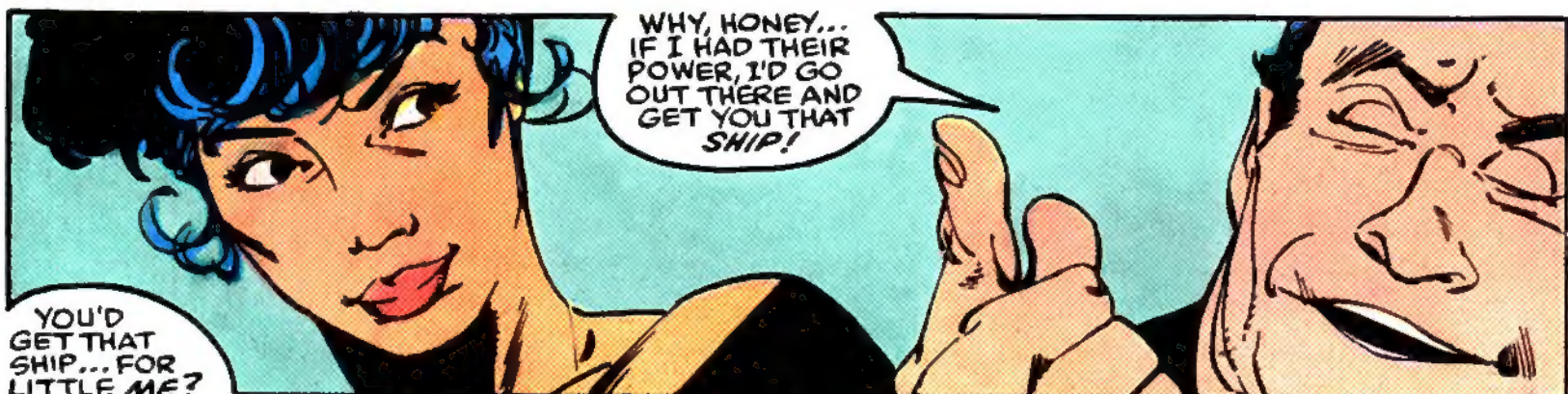
BUT TELL ME, SWEET, WHY WOULD A CUTE LITTLE THING LIKE YOU MIND IF THEY MOVED THAT SHIP OR NOT?

BECAUSE... I WANT IT! I... I NEED IT.



YOU NEED THAT BIG OLE SHIP? WHAT WOULD A CUTE LITTLE THING LIKE YOU WANT WITH A BIG OLE SHIP LIKE THAT?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU HAD ALL THOSE MUTANTS' POWER?

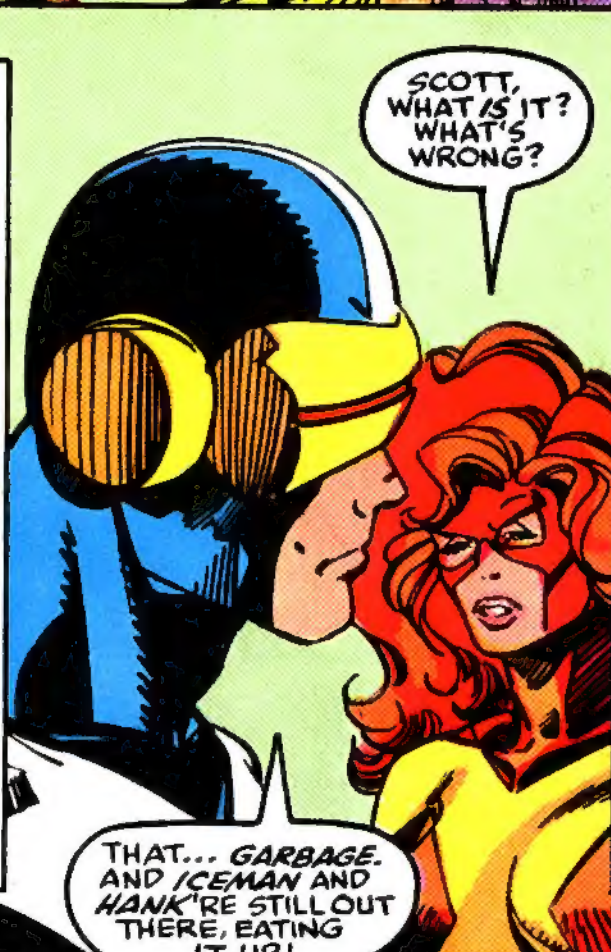
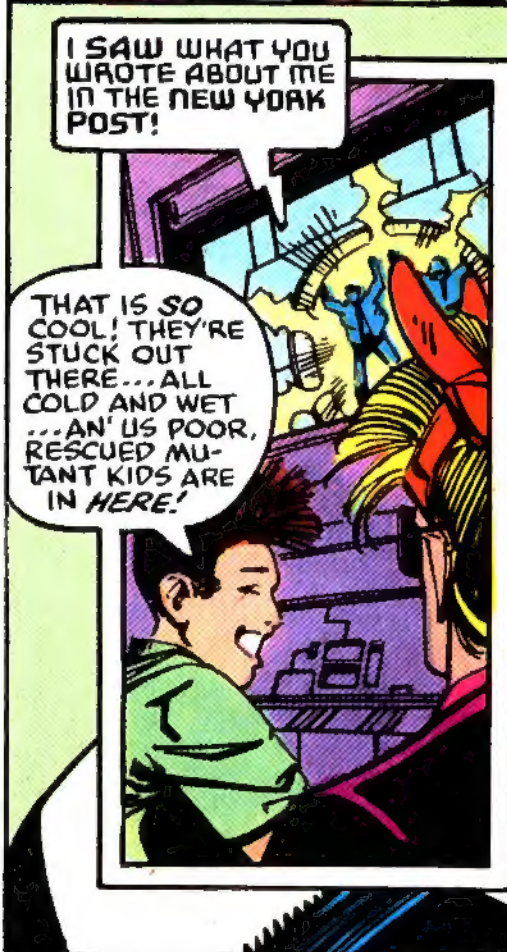
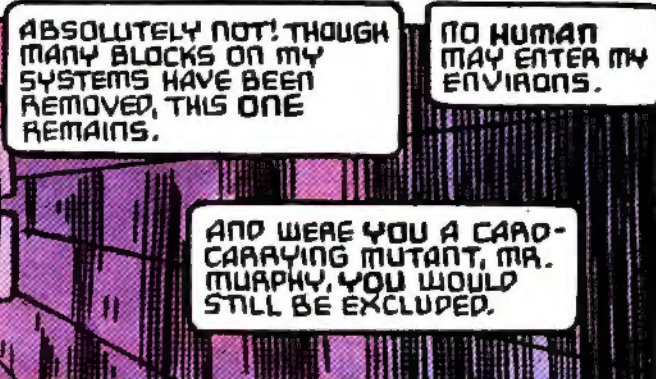
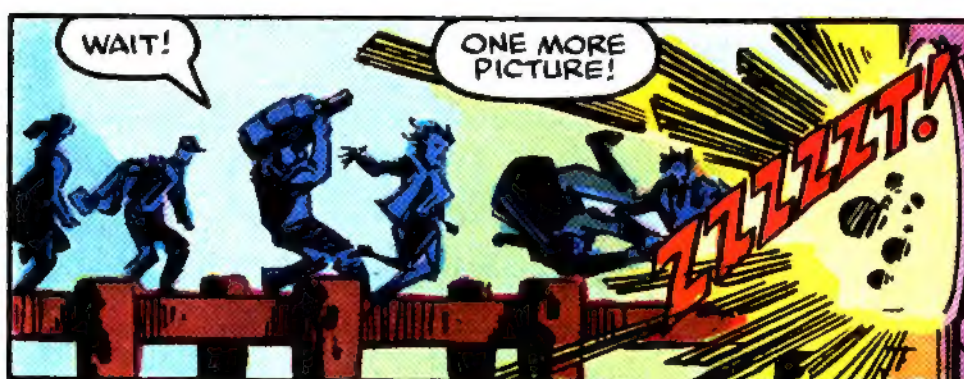
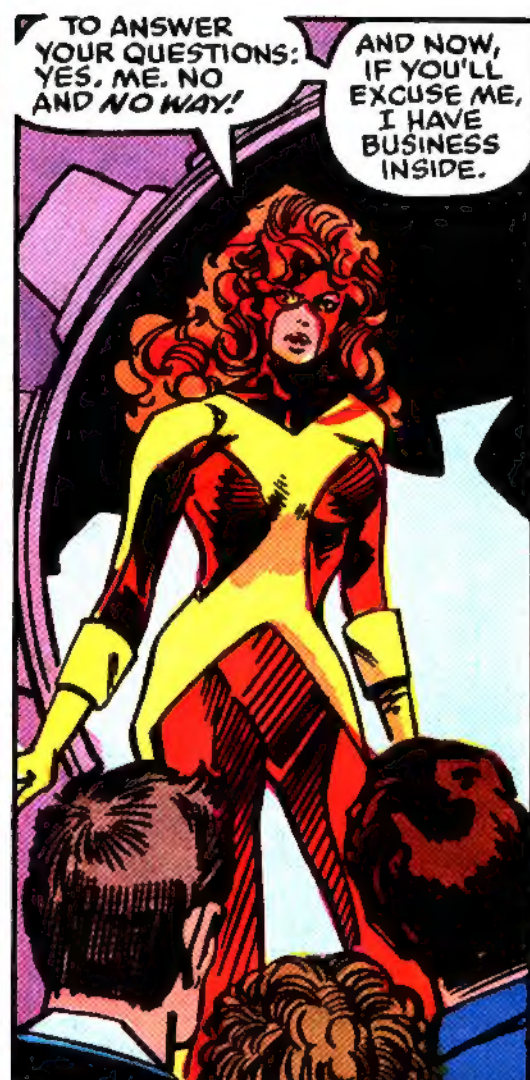


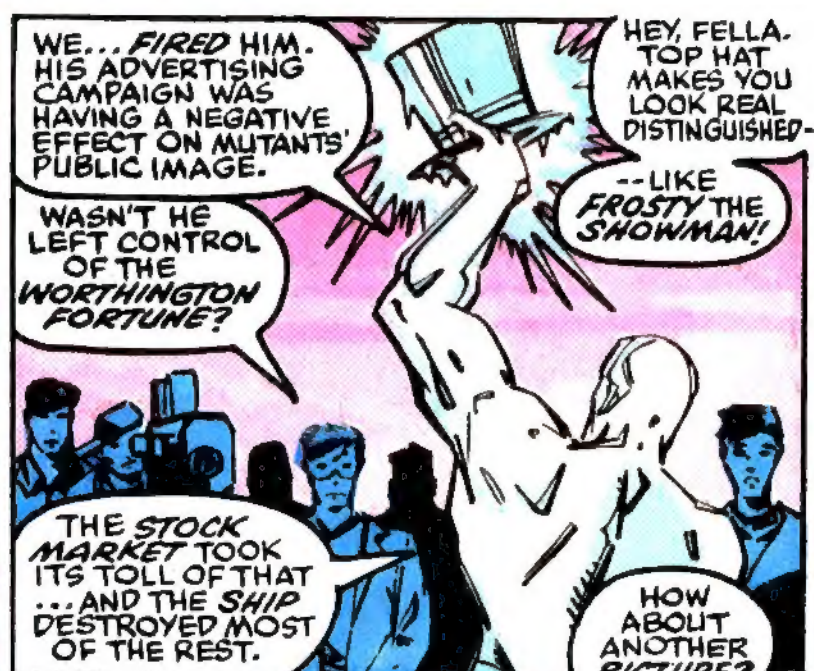
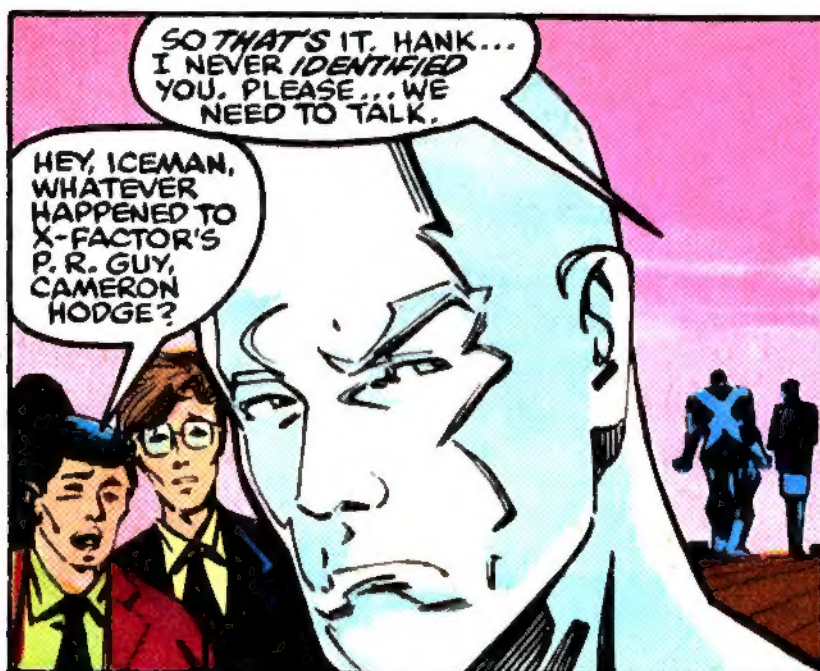
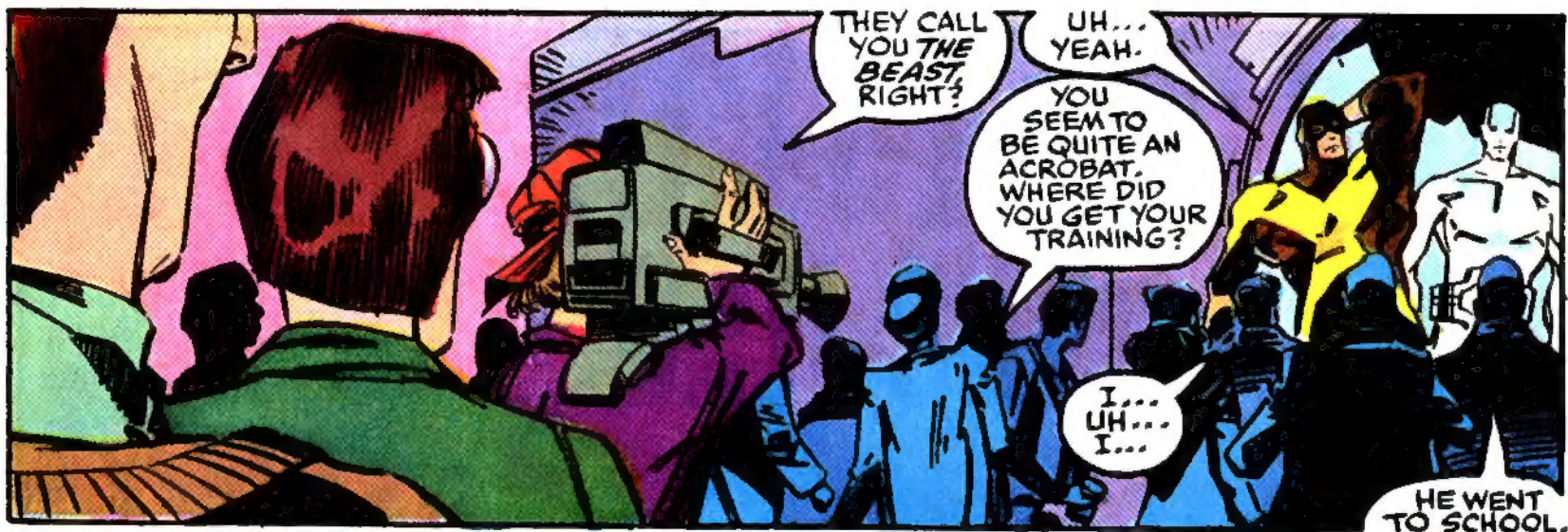
WHY, HONEY... IF I HAD THEIR POWER, I'D GO OUT THERE AND GET YOU THAT SHIP!

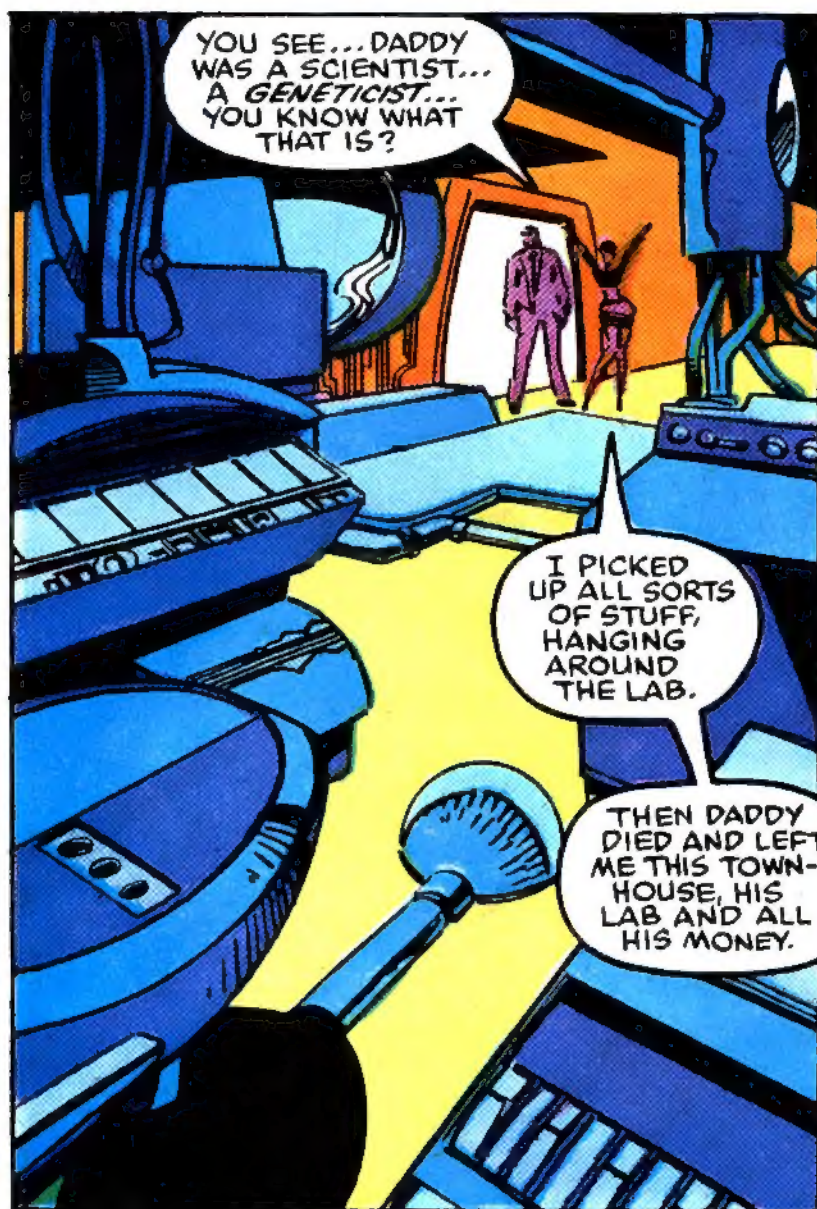
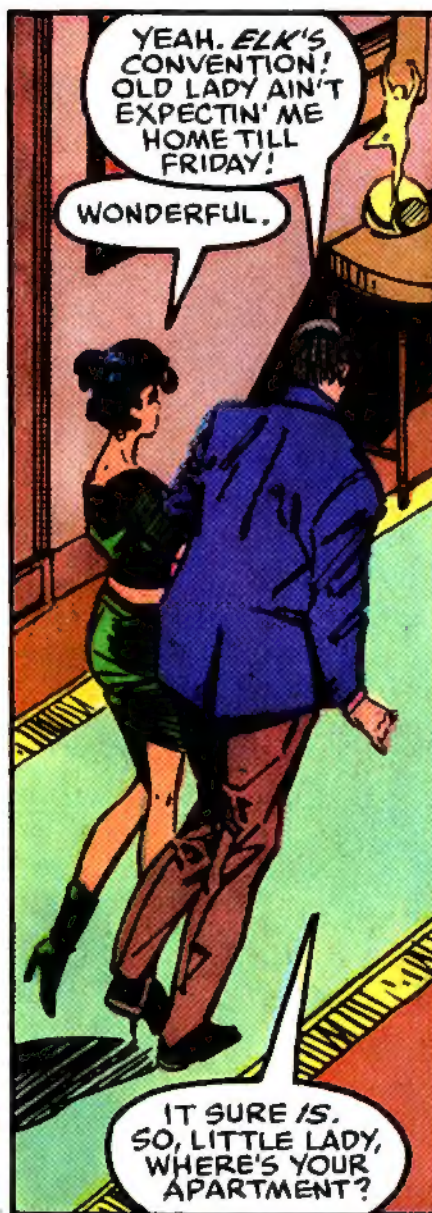
YOU'D GET THAT SHIP... FOR LITTLE ME? WHY... THAT'S THE NICEST THING ANYBODY'S SAID TO ME ALL DAY.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME HOME WITH ME... SO WE CAN DISCUSS IT... IN PRIVATE...?

WHILE DOWNTOWN, AN INTERMINABLE PRESS CONFERENCE GRINDS TO A CLOSE...







AND I WAS REAL LUCKY.

L... LUCKY...?

BABY, WHAT IS THIS? WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

MY BACK-
GROUND
MADE ME ABLE
TO UNDERSTAND
WHAT MY
POWER COULD
DO...

...WHAT
SEEING AND
BEING ABLE
TO ALTER
THINGS ON A
MOLECULAR
LEVEL COULD
MEAN...

P-POWER?
WHY'D THIS
HAFTA HAPPEN
TO ME? WHY
DO I MEET
ALL THE KINKY
MILLIONAIRESS
MANIACS...

HEY...
I'M NOT
KINKY!

COME
HERE.

LET ME
SHOW YOU
WHY THEY
CALL ME
INFECTIA.

KISS
ME...!

AARGH!

WHAT WAS
THAT? WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE TO
ME?

WHY... I
JUST GAVE YOU
WHAT YOU
WANTED... SO
YOU CAN GIVE
ME WHAT I
WANT.

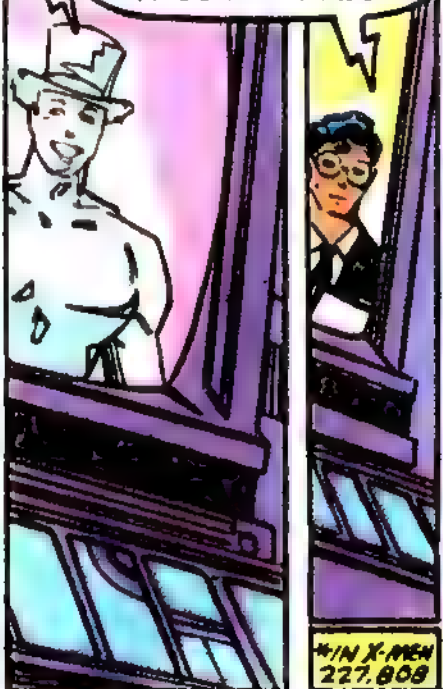
HONESTLY...
WHY DID YOU
THINK
I BROUGHT
YOU HERE?

...WE GOTTA
GET THIS SHIP
MOVIN' NOW.
SO AS OLD
PORKY USED
TO SAY--



TH-TH-
TH-THAT'S
ALL,
FOLKS.

AND NOW, ON A MORE
SERIOUS NOTE, THE
MYSTERY WOMAN WHO
PERISHED WITH THE
X-MEN* HAS STILL
TO BE IDENTIFIED...

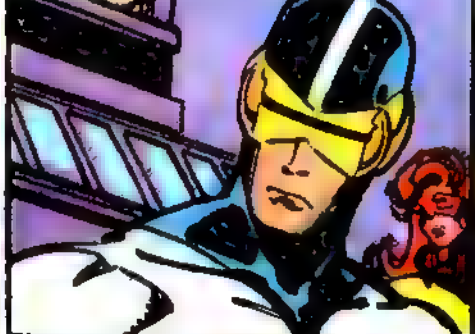


...BUT HER
PLEA CONTINUES
TO TUG AT
AMERICA'S
HEART-
STRINGS...

SCOTT,
WHEREVER
YOU ARE,
I WISH YOU
ALL THE
BEST.

FIND
OUR SON
KEEP HIM
SAFE. RAISE
HIM WELL.

I LOVE
YOU. GOOD-
BYE.



BLAST IT ALL!
WHY DO THEY
KEEP PLAYING
THAT TAPE?



WHY DO
YOU KEEP
LISTENING
TO IT?

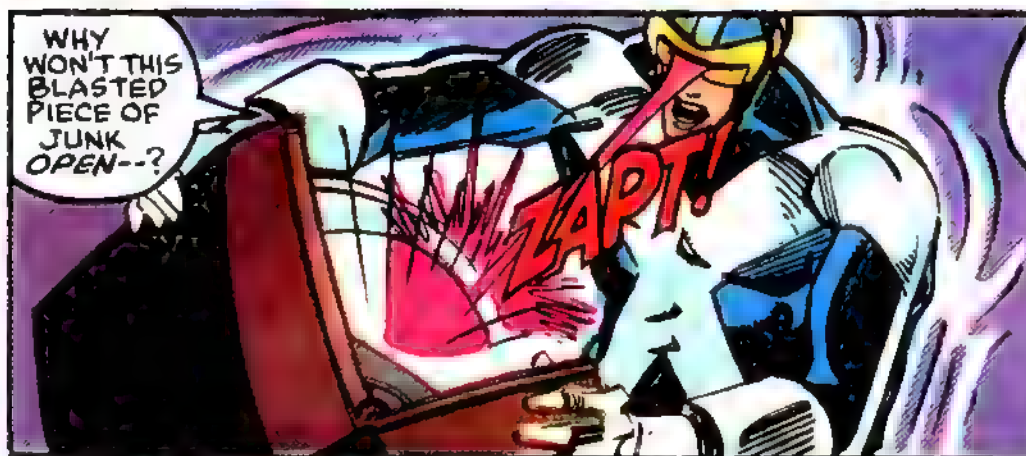
SCOTT,
YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO IN-
SISTED IT WOULD
BE SAFER TO
MOVE THE
SHIP...

...AND
THEN INSISTED
THAT WE HAD TO
WARN THE CITY IN
ORDER TO AVERT
POSSIBLE PANIC.

SO WE
HOLD THE
STUPID PRESS
CONFERENCE
AND WHEN WE
DO...

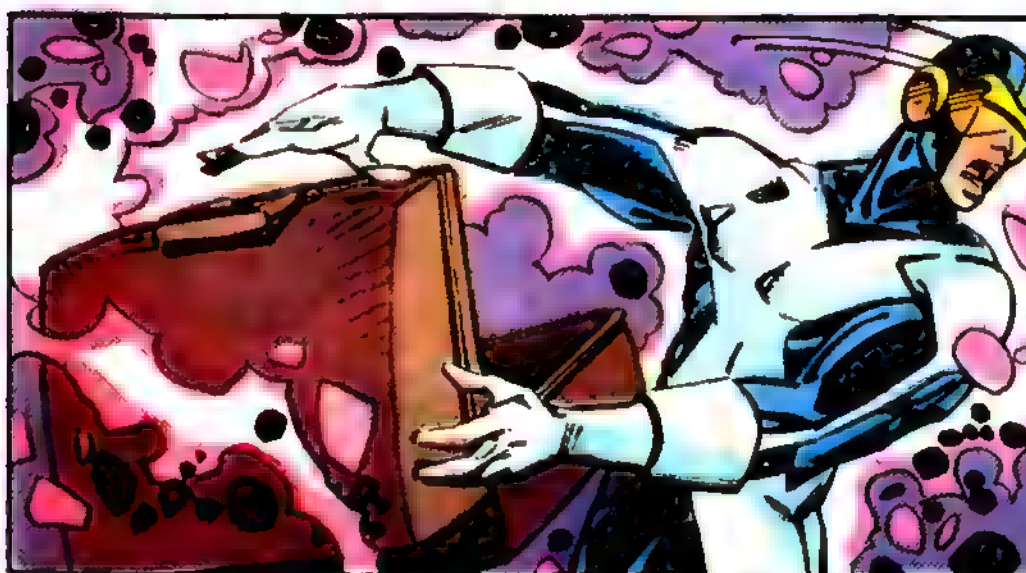


WHY
WON'T THIS
BLASTED
PIECE OF
JUNK--?



SCOTT! WE'VE
DECIDED... AS
SOON AS WE MOVE
THE SHIP, WE'RE
GOING TO SEARCH
FOR YOUR SON.

ALL OF
US TO-
GETHER.
WE'LL FIND
HIM, I
KNOW.



ALL OF
US TO-
GETHER.
WE'LL FIND
HIM, I
KNOW.



SO, TELL
ME... WHAT
IS THE
MATTER
WITH YOU?

JEAN... WE WERE...
IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS
... EVEN AS MADELYNE
WAS DYING IN BATTLE
WITH THE X-MEN.

WE
WERE
WHAT?

NO WAY. AT LEAST, NOT
QUITE. AND, SCOTT YOU
THOUGHT SHE WAS ALREADY
DEAD, THAT SHE'D BEEN
DEAD FOR MONTHS...

I LOVE YOU,
JEAN... I'VE
LOVED YOU
EVER SINCE
WE WERE
KIDS...

... AND
SHE DID
NOTHING
TO DISABUSE
YOU OF THE
NOTION.

... AND NOW,
EVERY TIME I
LOOK AT YOU, IT'S
AN ACCUSATION
... OF MY GUILT
... MY...

JEAN... HE'S MY
SON. AND I JUST
FOUND OUT HE WAS
ALIVE, AND I HARDLY
KNOW WHERE TO
BEGIN TO LOOK
FOR HIM.

SO AM I A
SILVER-TONGUED
DEVIL OR WHAT?

WHAT IS IT WITH YOU,
BOBBY? YOU ACTUALLY
LIKE TALKING TO THOSE
FOOL REPORTERS?

YEAH, I DO.
YOU'RE JUST
LUCKY SOME-
BODY DOES.

LISTEN... HANK
MADE A MESS
OF HIS INTER-
VIEW.

AFTER WE
MOVE THE SHIP,
WE'RE GONNA
HAVE TO DO
SOMETHING
ABOUT GETTING
HANK'S SMARTS
RESTORED.

I'LL BET
REED
RICHARDS
COULD
MANAGE
IT.

A FEW EXTRA BRAINS'D
DO WONDERS FOR HIS
ROMANCE WITH TRISH
TRILBY... IF THAT'S
WHAT IT IS.

EVEN SO, HANK'S
NOT DOING SO BAD.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT
AROUSING A WOMAN'S
MOTHERLY INSTINCTS
WOULD--

OH SHUT
UP!

SHIP AREN'T YOU
READY TO MOVE
YET? COME ON! LET'S
GET THIS SHOW ON
THE ROAD!

WHILE ATOP A WAREHOUSE NOT FAR AWAY--

NOW, LISTEN... YOU ESPECIALLY, GREG. THE POWER I'VE GIVEN YOU MAKES YOU KING FOR A DAY.

IT'LL WEAR OFF... AND THE MORE YOU USE IT, THE FASTER IT GOES.

SO DON'T DO ANYTHING TILL I TELL YOU TO OKAY, MIKE?

ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY OFF! THIS MIGHT GET DANGEROUS.

BEAST, YOU AND TRISH KEEP THOSE HOOLIGANS OUT OF TROUBLE, OKAY?

NO THANKS, BEAST. WE GOT RINGSIDE SEATS RIGHT HERE.

EVERYBODY'S ASHORE, CYKE!

ALL RIGHT, RUSTY!

REMEMBER... YOU ALL PROMISED ME YOU'D GET ME THAT SHIP... I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO KEEP YOUR PROMISE. AFTER ALL, I KEPT MINE.

JUST REMEMBER... YOU WON'T GET A SECOND CHANCE, SO MAKE EACH MOMENT COUNT!

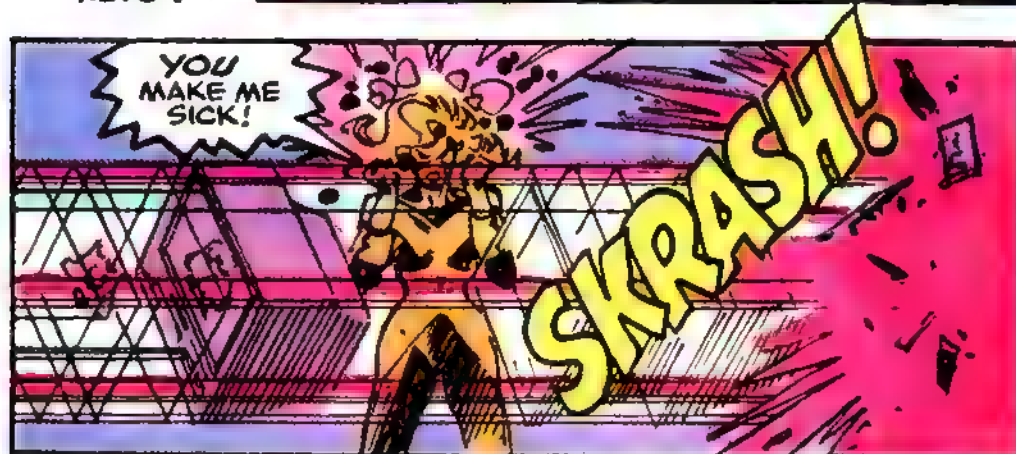
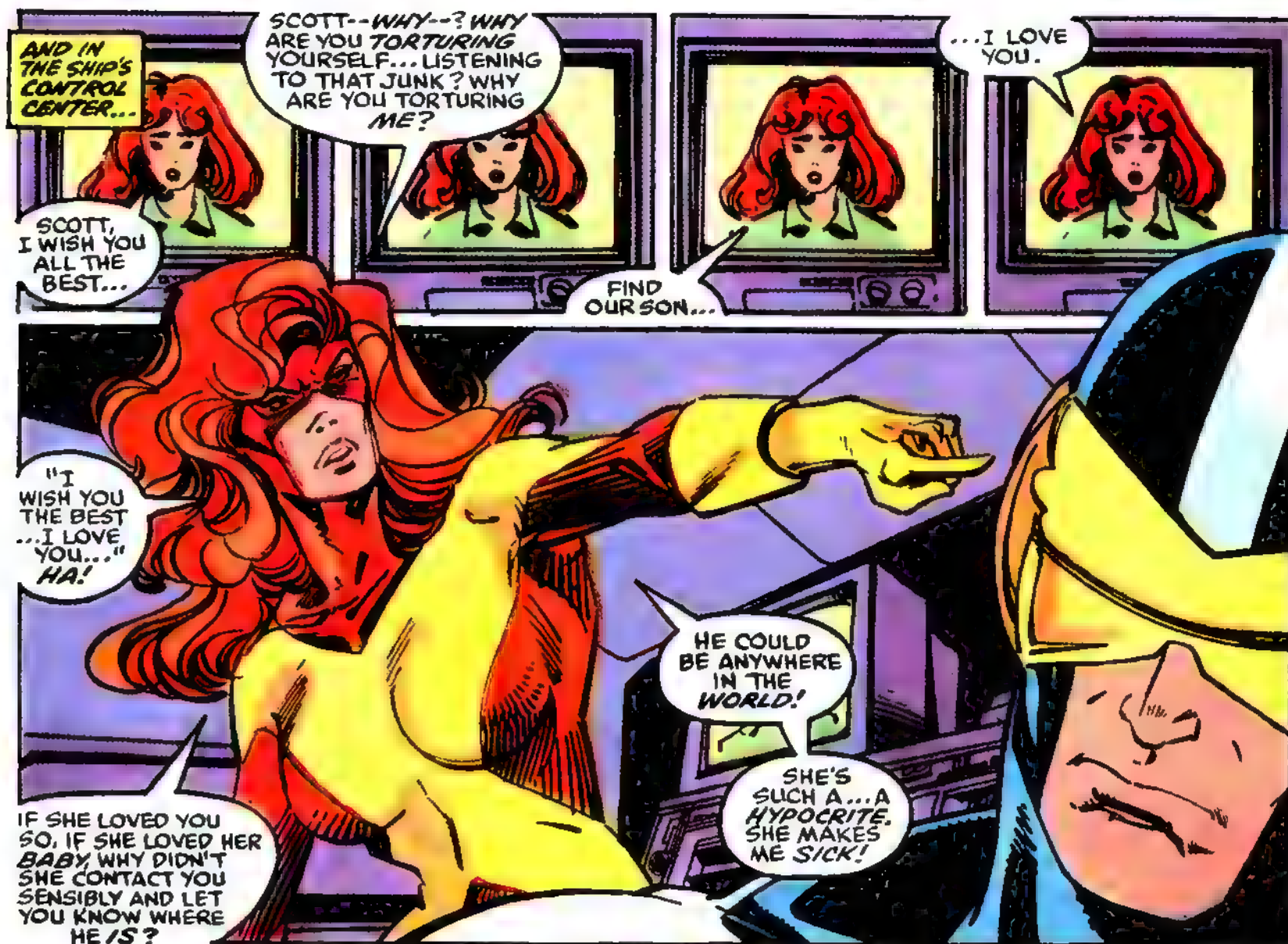
HEY, YOU KIDS. TRISH AN' ME'RE GOIN' HIGHER TA WATCH. YOU WANNA COME?

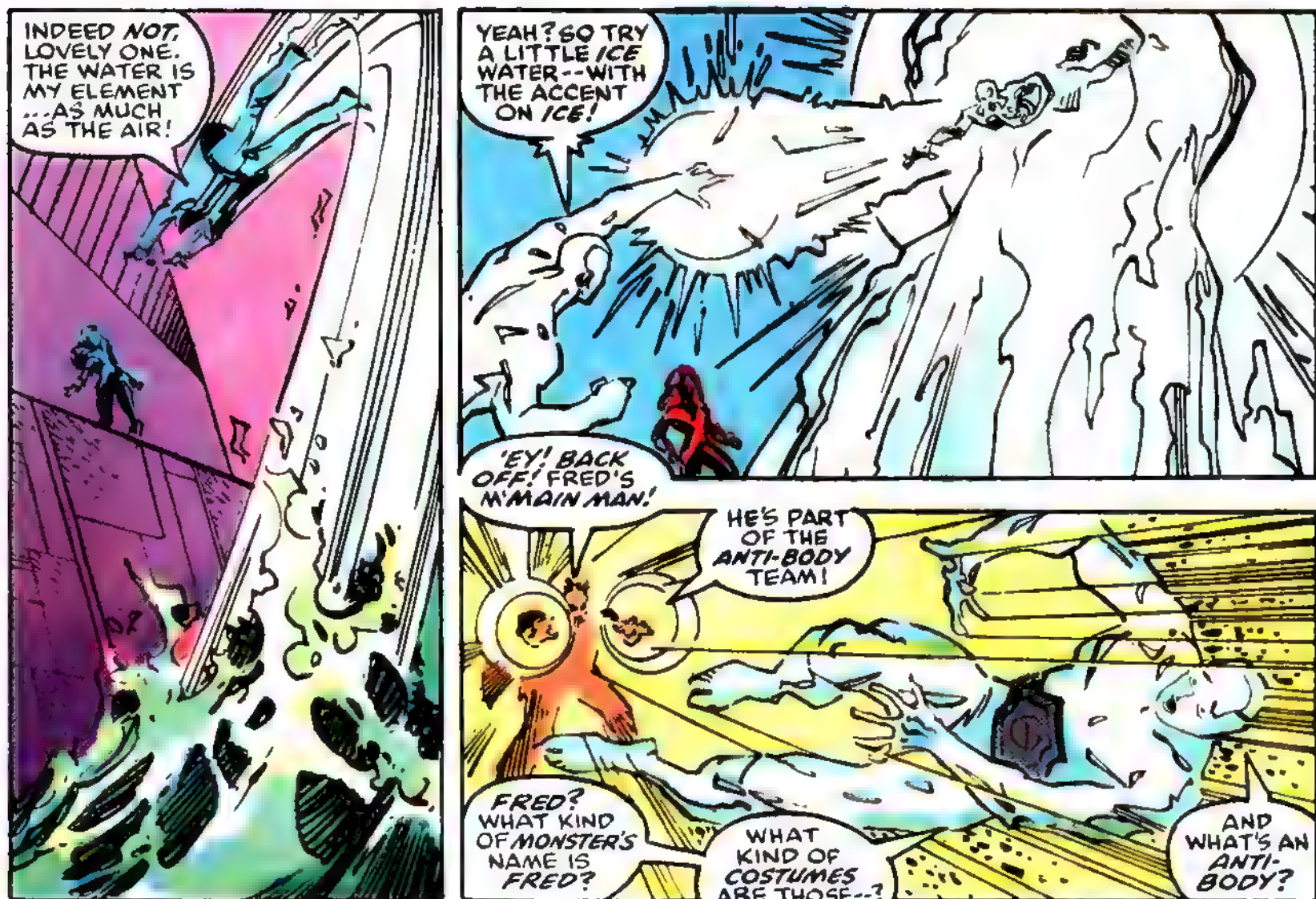
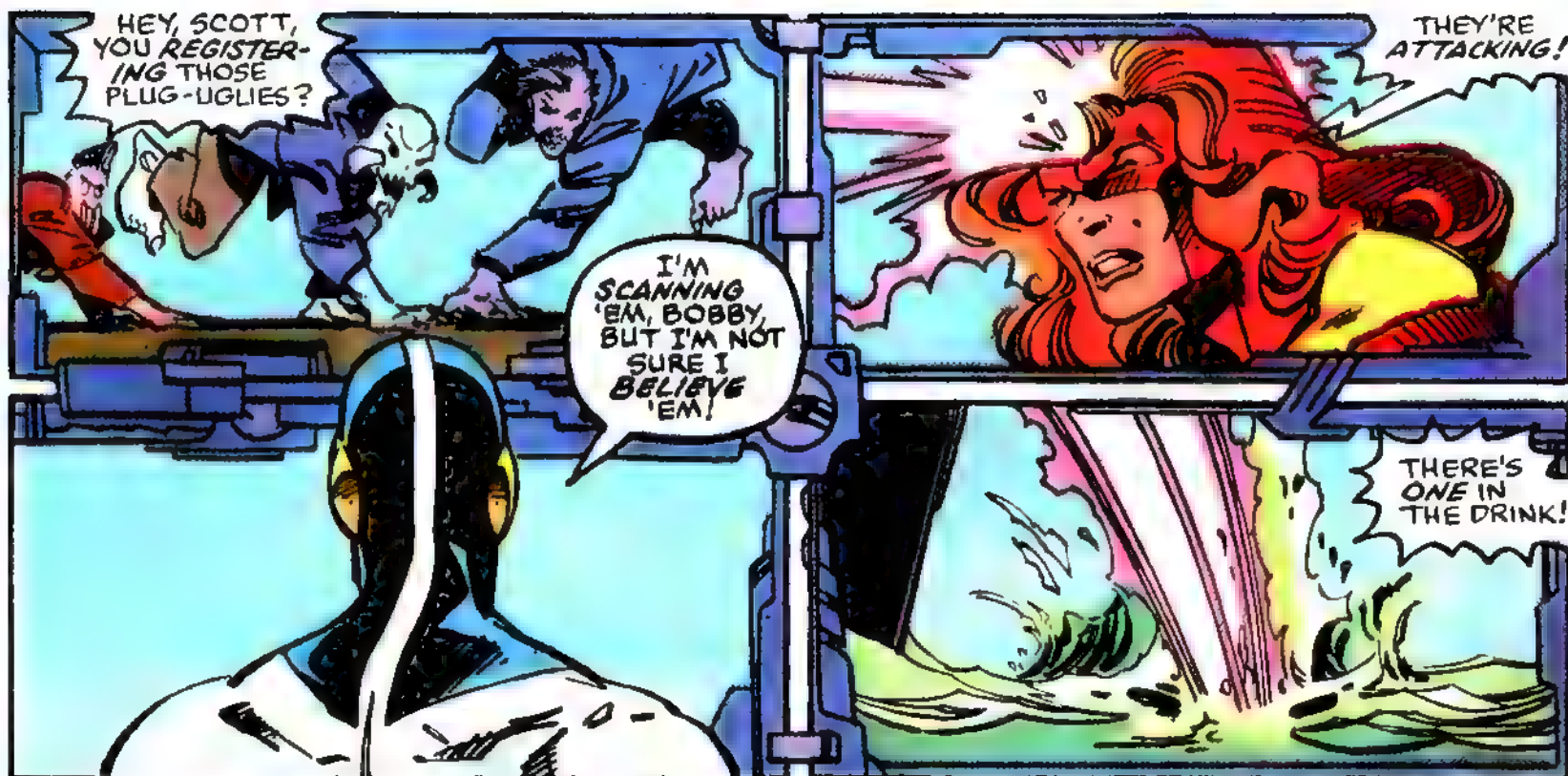
CAST OFF, SHIP!

YA KNOW... THEY GOT RID O' ME OFF THE SHIP 'CAUSE I GOT DUMB AN' THEY WERE SCARED I'D MAKE A MESS OF IT LIKE YOU SAID ON TV AN'--

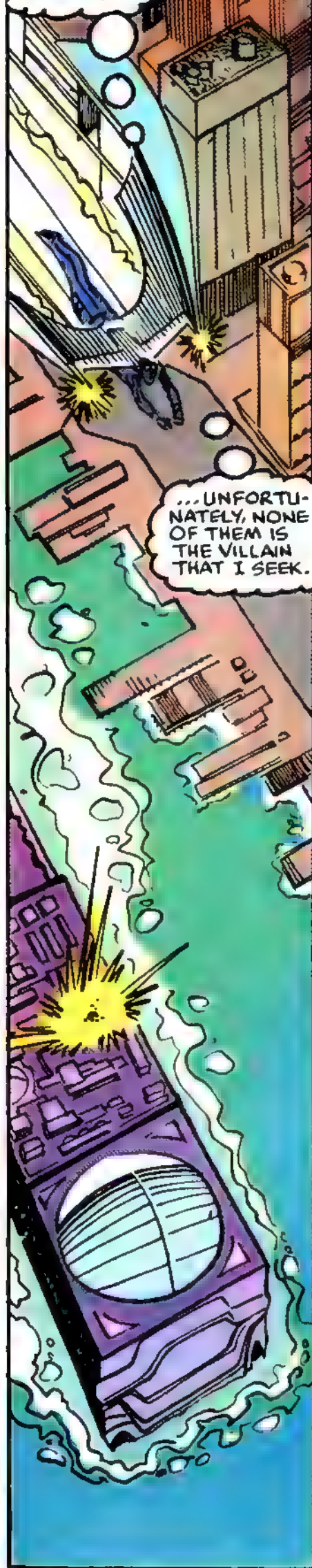
I DID NOT SAY YOU WERE DUMB ON TV. HANK, READ MY LIPS-- MY EXACT WORDS WERE--

HUMPH! IF I WASN'T SO DUMB, I COULD THINK OF SUMPTIN' BETTER TA DO WITH YOUR LIPS...!



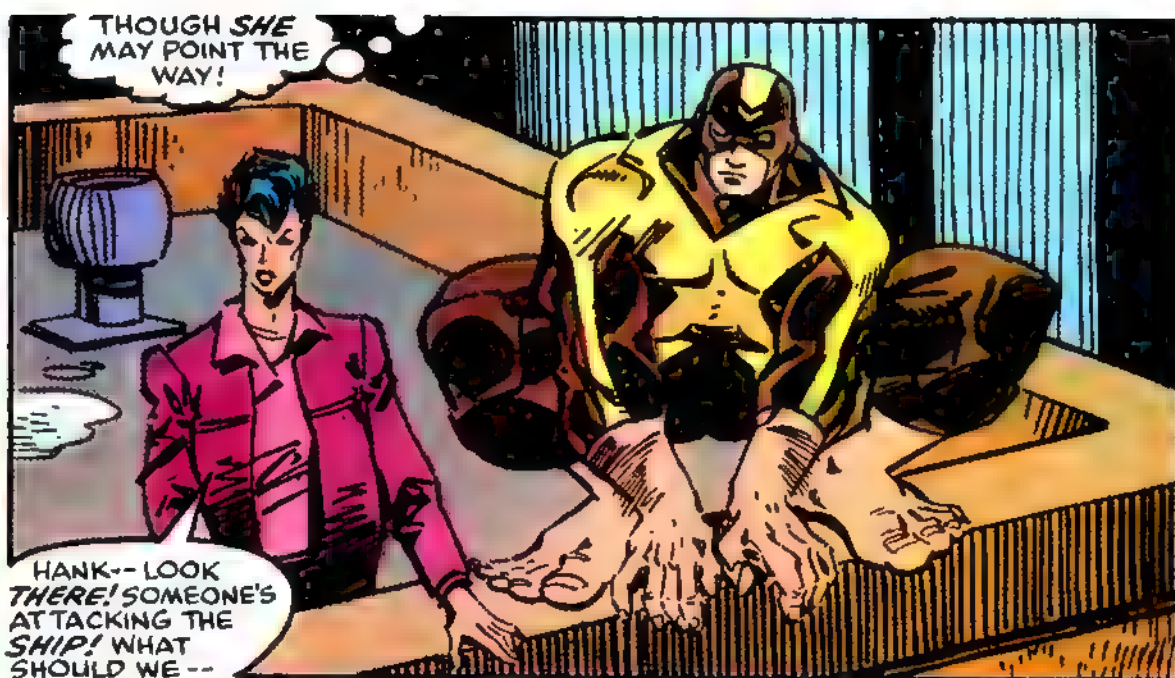


THE SHIP IS LEAVING THE HARBOR, NOW. ONCE AGAIN, X-FACTOR IS BESET BY VILLAINS...

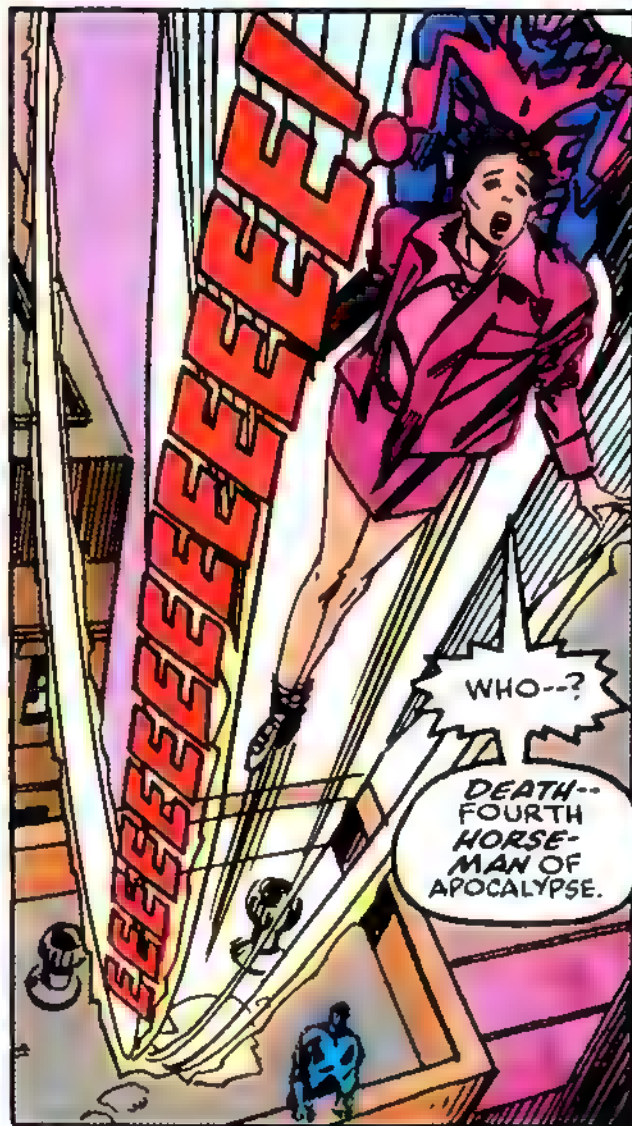


...UNFORTUNATELY, NONE OF THEM IS THE VILLAIN THAT I SEEK.

THOUGH SHE MAY POINT THE WAY!



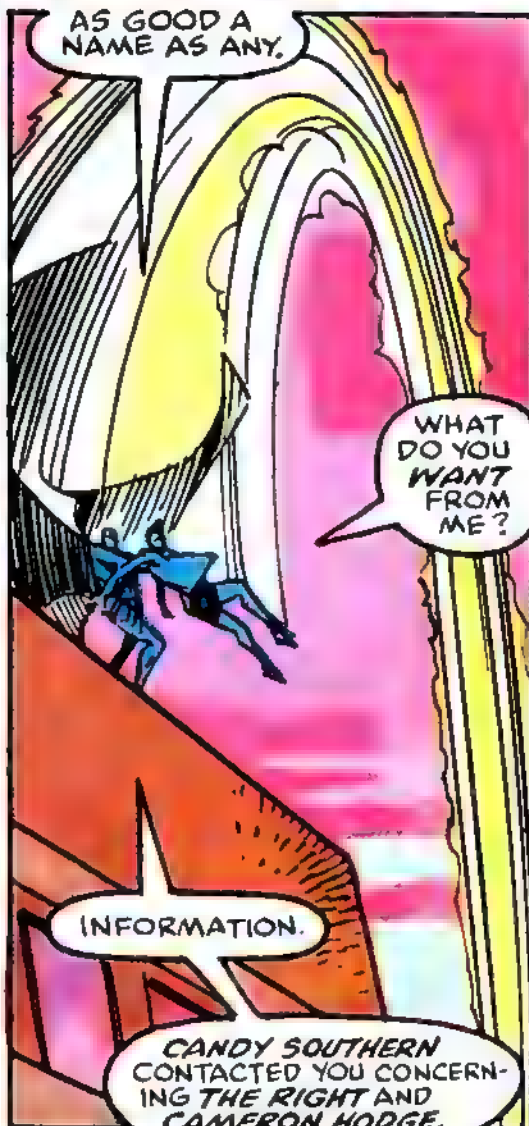
HANK-- LOOK THERE! SOMEONE'S ATTACKING THE SHIP! WHAT SHOULD WE --



WHO--?

DEATH--
FOURTH
HORSE-
MAN OF
APOCALYPSE.

AS GOOD A NAME AS ANY.



WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

INFORMATION.

CANDY SOUTHERN CONTACTED YOU CONCERNING THE RIGHT AND CAMERON HODGE.



WHAT DID SHE TELL YOU?

NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! YOU'RE ONE OF THE HORSE-MEN. YOU HELPED DECIMATE MANHATTAN.

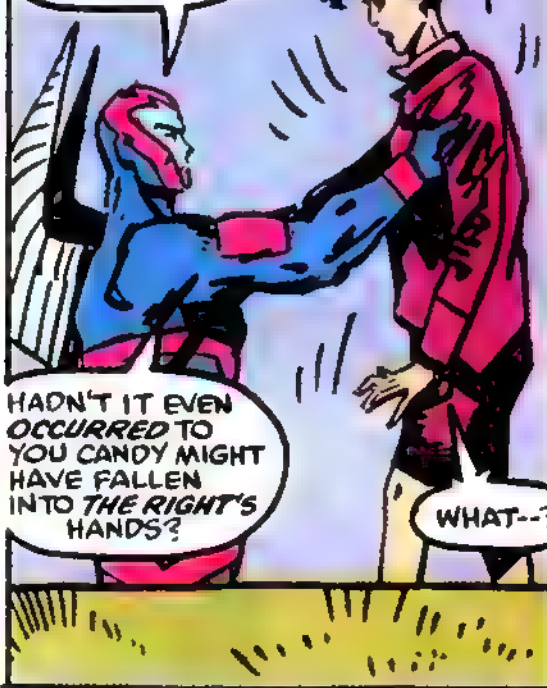
TELL ME!

THERE'S...NOTHING TO TELL. SHE SAID SHE'D LEARNED THAT HODGE WAS LINKED WITH AN UN-NAMED ANTI-MUTANT ORGANIZATION.



SHE KNEW MORE. WE WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET... THEN I GOT WORD THAT SHE'D GONE OUT OF TOWN.

YOU'RE SO GOOD AT PUTTING TWO AND TWO TO-GETHER--

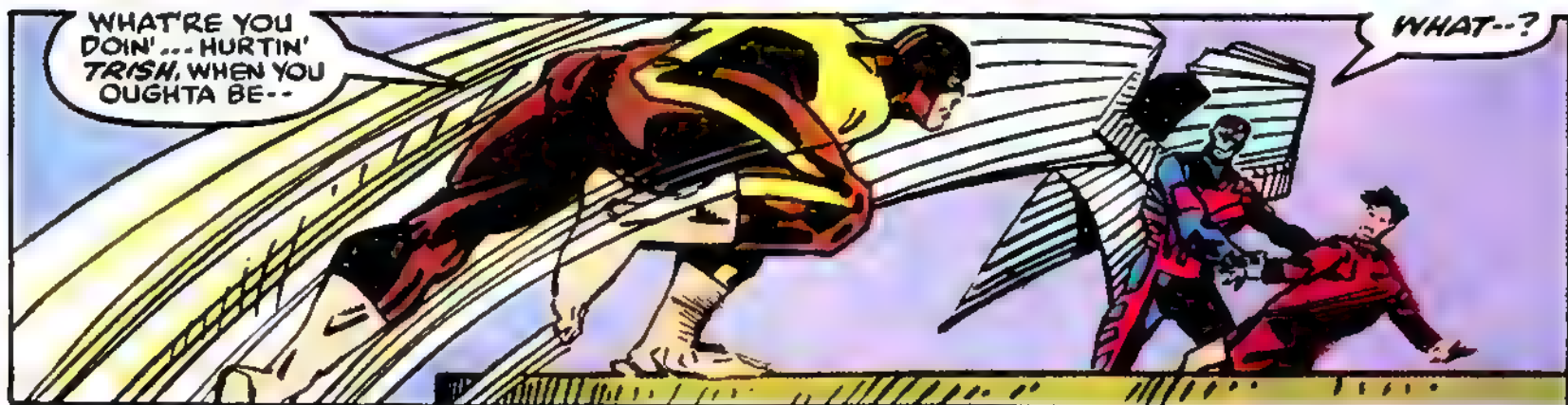


HADN'T IT EVEN OCCURRED TO YOU CANDY MIGHT HAVE FALLEN INTO THE RIGHT'S HANDS?

WHAT--?

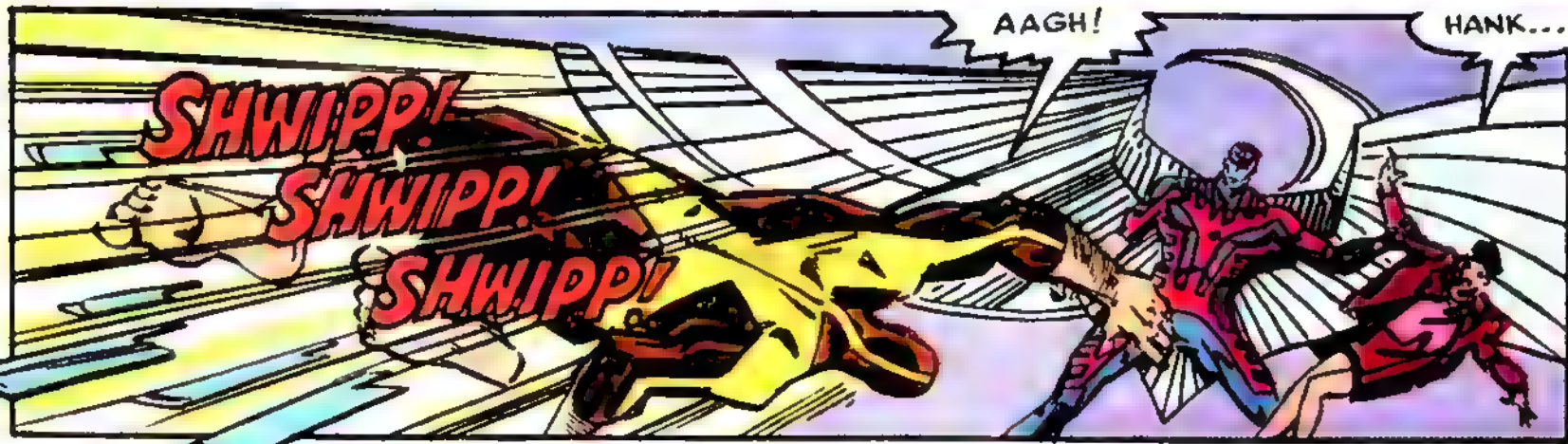


STOP!



WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'... HURTIN' TRISH, WHEN YOU OUGHTA BE--

WHAT--?



AAGH!

HANK...

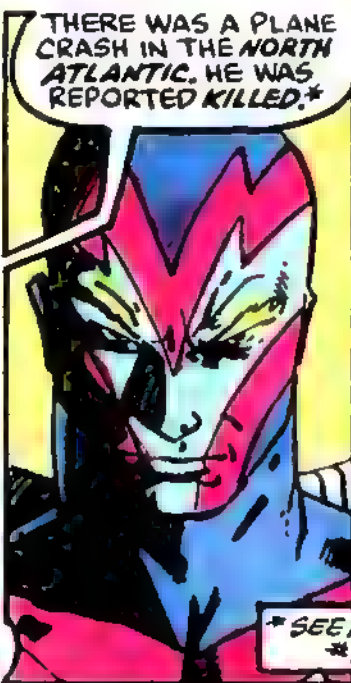


HE'S NOT MOVING! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM, YOU MONSTER?

S'OKAY, TRISH, POISON... ON WING KNIVES. ONLY... LITTLE CUT. OKAY... SOON.

ALL RIGHT. I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW... IT'S EASY ENOUGH TO FIND OUT! JUST LEAVE HIM ALONE!

I FOLLOWED UP ON CAMERON HODGE.



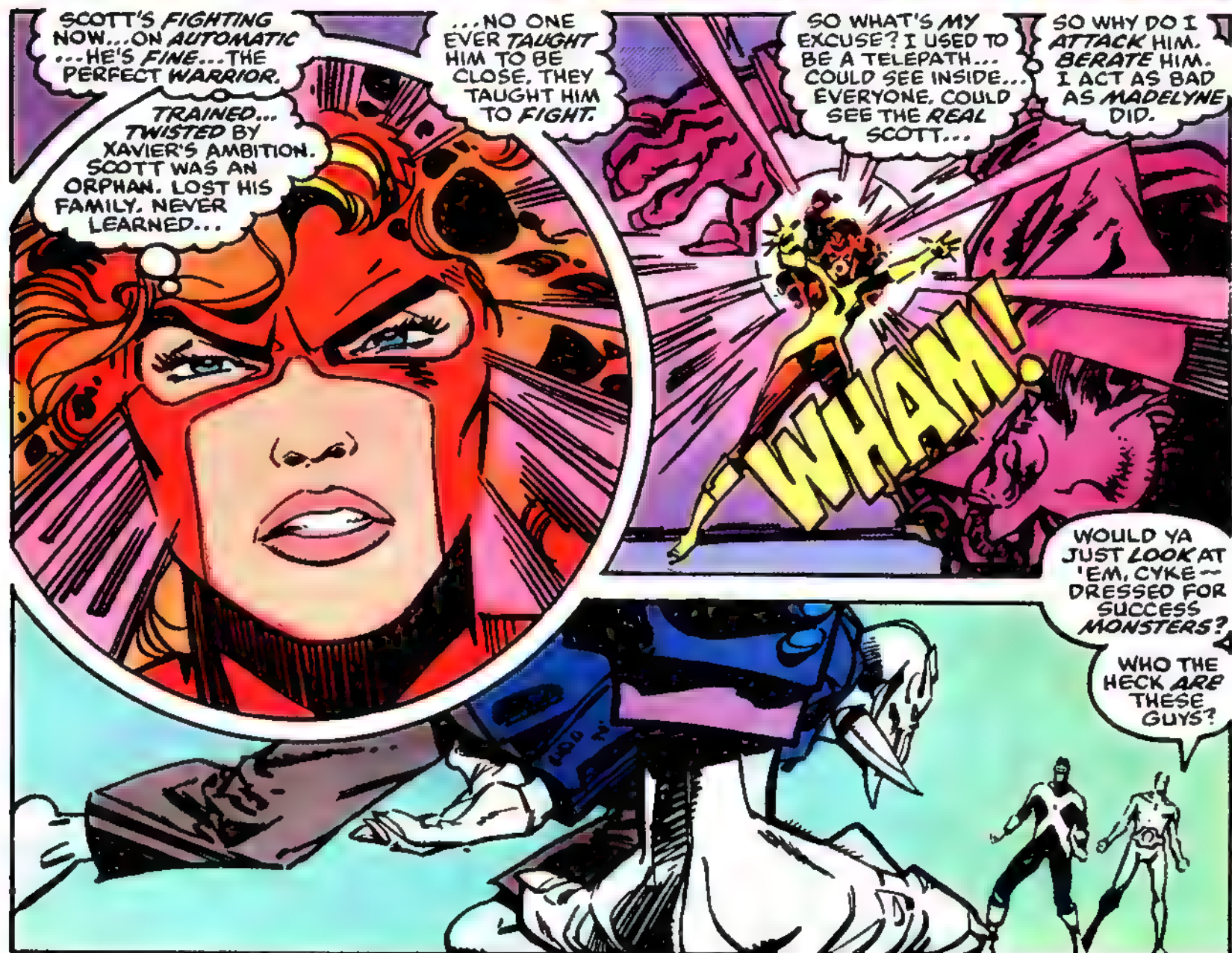
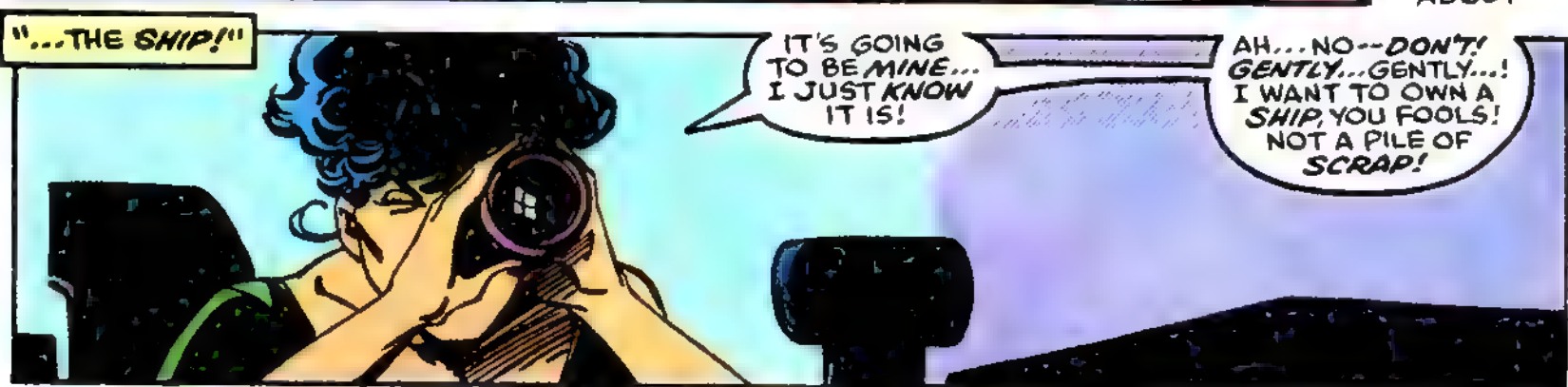
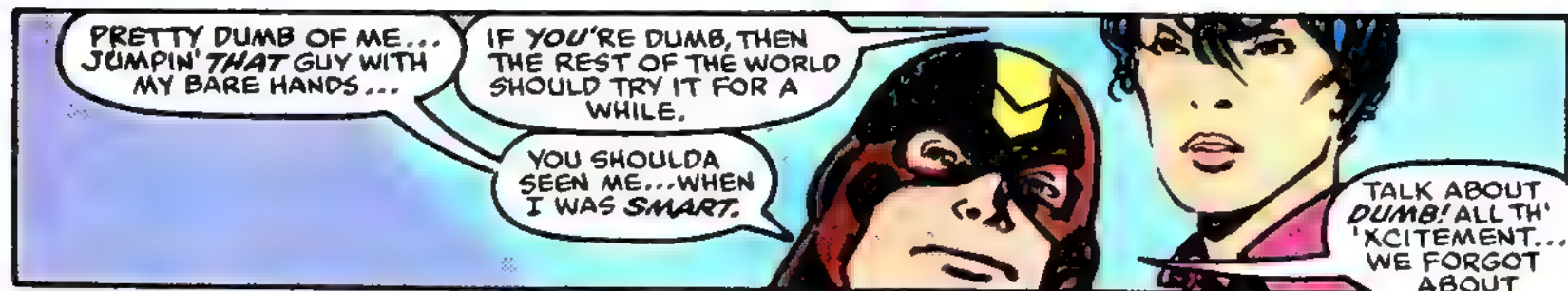
THERE WAS A PLANE CRASH IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC. HE WAS REPORTED KILLED.*

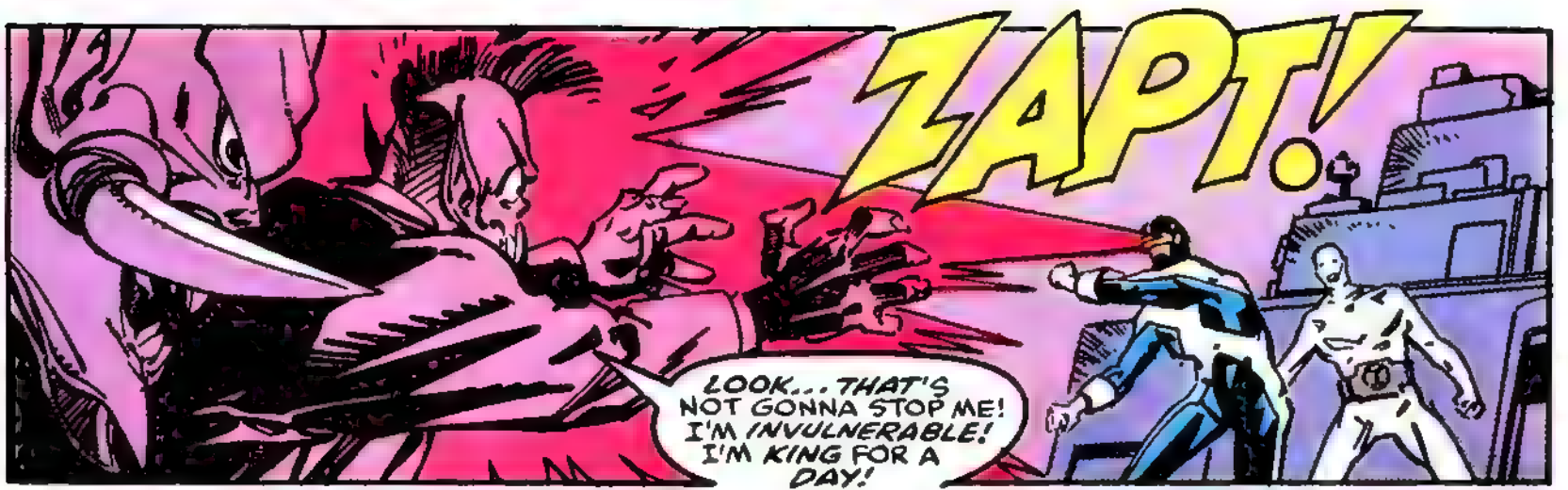
*SEE NEW MUTANTS #59. BOB.



CRASHES CAN BE FAKED...

...THOUGH IT WOULD HAVE AN IRONIC SYMMETRY... WOULDN'T IT, MS. TRILBY?





BULLPEN BULLETINS

ITEM: You wouldn't think that annihilating a major U.S. city would create such a stir . . . ! When word of Pittsburgh's impending destruction in the New Universe's THE PITT Bookshelf Edition leaked out, the Marvel offices were stormed with interested and indignant inquiries from the various media of the doomed city (doomed in the New Universe, anyway!). It started with radio station WXXP, and eventually The Pittsburgh Press, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Point Park College's The Globe, WTAE radio, and even KDKA television interviewed the various creative parties responsible and ran articles or segments about the tragedy. What the Pittsburgh area media wanted to know was: "Why us?" We tried to explain that the obliteration of America's Most Liveable City was a dramatic outgrowth of the ongoing storyline in STAR BRAND, but they seemed less than satisfied. However, when we pointed out that the three creative types who brainstormed the idea of Pittsburgh's demise, New U editor Howard Mackie, and writers John Byrne and Mark Gruenwald, are "killed" in the very same issue that Pittsburgh is, they were a bit more mollified. Thanks go to Kelly O'Toole of the Greater Pittsburgh Office of Promotion for helping us get our side of the story out, and to the people of the greater Pittsburgh area for being such sports about your fictional nuking.

ITEM: We're in the midst of preparing a profusely-illustrated "coffee table" book telling the history of Marvel Comics from the 1930s to the present for publication in late '88. Unfortunately, our archives don't contain everything we'd like to include in the book. We're especially interested in locating unpublished covers; uninked, penciled pages by Marvel artists; preliminary design sketches for Marvel characters; and old photos of the Marvel offices and staff. If you should happen to have such collector's pieces in your collection, we'd like to arrange to copy them so they can be included

in the book. Write us in care of Mark Gruenwald. History will thank you.

ITEM: One of comic fandom's largest-circulation weekly newspapers, The Comics Buyer's Guide, is holding their annual Fan Awards to determine your favorite writer, penciler, inker, colorist, letterer, editor, story, character and a whole slew of other faves. If you would like to make your favorites known, pick up a copy of this month's MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE for the official ballot, or fill out one of your own according to the rules below. Tell them Marvel sent you!

Comics Buyer's Guide Fan Awards for 1987

1. Favorite Editor, 2. Favorite Writer, 3. Favorite Penciller, 4. Favorite Inker, 5. Favorite Colorist & Letterer, 6. Favorite Cover Artist, 7. Favorite Comic-Book Story, 8. Favorite Comic Book, 9. Favorite Limited Comic-Book Series, 10. Favorite Original Graphic Novel, 11. Favorite Reprint Graphic Novel, 12. Favorite Character, 13. Favorite Publication about Comics, and 14. Favorite Phil Seuling Award for Favorite Direct-Sale-Only Title.

Only material cover-dated 1987 is eligible for consideration. Votes for ineligible material will not be counted.

Anyone may copy and circulate this ballot, and any fan may vote only once and vote for no more than one nominee in each category. Ballot-box stuffing will result in the destruction of all ballots involved. You need not vote in all

categories. Comics Buyer's Guide is not eligible for Category 14.

A free copy of Comics Buyer's Guide #756, dated May 13, 1988 (which will carry the results of voting), will be sent to any U.S. voter who does not already have a current or expired subscription to CBG. Votes from other countries will be counted, but we regret that a sample copy cannot be sent unless the vote is accompanied by \$1.50 in U.S. funds to cover costs of handling and shipping to another country.

Mail your ballot individually in a single envelope by March 31, 1988, to: Comics Buyer's Guide Fan Awards, 708 East State Street, Iola, Wisconsin 54990.

Include your Name, Age, Sex, Street or Box, City, State, and ZIP.

Please type or print your votes and information clearly.

Pro File on:

JIM SALICRUP



Editor on: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, MARVEL TALES, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAGAZINE, WEB OF SPIDER-MAN, AND WHAT THE—?!, a new humor comic in the tradition of 'NOT BRAND ECCH'.

Marvel freelance credits (past): I wrote SPIDEY SUPER STORIES, the Spider-Man

story in SPIDER-MAN AND THE POWER PACK Child Abuse prevention comic, THE A-TEAM, THE TRANSFORMERS, THE INHUMANIDS, THE VISIONARIES, KOOL-AID MAN, QUIK BUNNY, and many more that even I won't admit to.

My hobbies are: Non-existent.

The single work of which I am most proud is: THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS TOILET PAPER starring THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN and THE INCREDIBLE HULK. If people didn't like the story they knew what they could do with it.

My pet peeves are: Those people out there who're going around calling others Marvel Zombies! I've even launched a series of editorials in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE crusading against this epidemic. And I promise each and every one of you that I won't rest until this long national nightmare is over.

My place of birth is: The same as most Marvel Universe characters—Manhattan.

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Finding an affordable apartment near my place of birth.

My oddest habit is: Waking up at 6:00 AM three times a week to take an aerobics class at a place they laughingly call the "Joy of Movement."

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like

to see my part played by: Jerry Lewis. At least they'd love it in France.

The reason I got into comics was: It's one of the greatest loves of my life.

People who knew me in High School thought I was: The luckiest guy in the world to already be working at Marvel.

My favorite performers are: Pingo Starr, Merv Griffin, Alice Cooper, Buster Poindexter, Lasse, Captain Kangaroo, Jack Benny, Bob Hope, William Powell, Myrna Loy, Carole Lombard, Marjorie Hemingway, Brooke Shields, and many, many more.

The last good book I read was: SLAVES OF NEW YORK by Tama Janowitz.

The last good movie I saw was: SNOWWHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS

The biggest influences on my work include: Stan Lee, Jim Shooter, and Andy Warhol.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: To make AMAZING SPIDER-MAN the number one best-selling comic in the world.

The worst part of my job is: Finding enough time to do everything I want to do.

When nobody's looking I like to: Plug MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: That Glenn Herdling and Dwight Jon Zimmerman do all my work.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ DAREDEVIL #255
- ☐ WEST COAST AVENGERS #33
- ☐ G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #11
- ☐ STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #19
- ☐ TALES OF G.I. JOE #6
- ☐ WHAT IF . . . ? SPECIAL #1
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #342
- ☐ SOLO AVENGERS #7
- ☐ STRANGE TALES #15
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #59
- ☐ THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #301
- ☐ THE NEW MUTANTS #64
- ☐ THE INCREDIBLE HULK #344
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #212
- ☐ THE AVENGERS #292
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #207
- ☐ G.I. JOE #72
- ☐ THE PUNISHER #9

- ☐ SILVER SURFER #12
- ☐ THE UNCANNY X-MEN #230
- ☐ MARVEL FANFARE #38
- ☐ THE FANTASTIC FOUR #315
- ☐ IRON MAN #231
- ☐ THOR #392
- ☐ CLASSIC X-MEN #22
- ☐ THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #139
- ☐ TRANSFORMERS #41
- ☐ X-FACTOR #29
- ☐ THE 'NAM #19

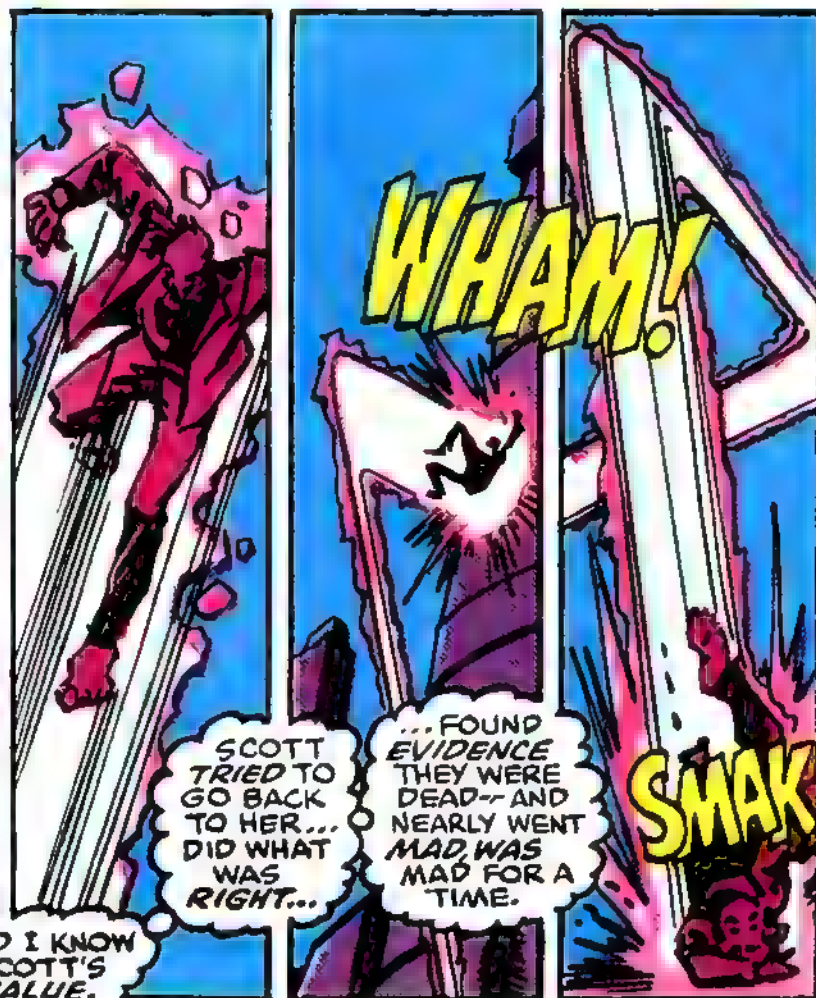
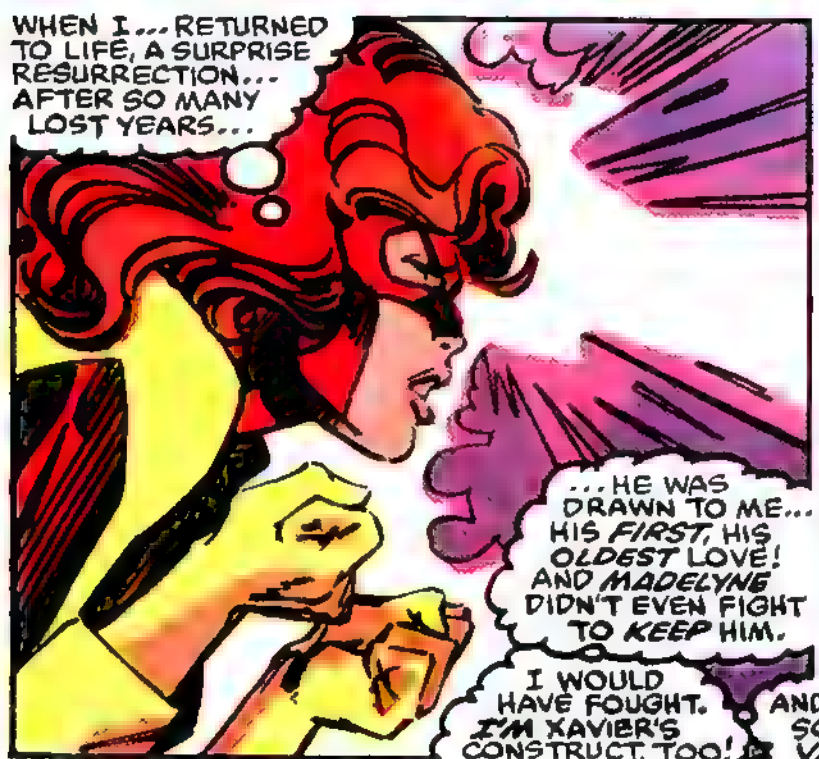
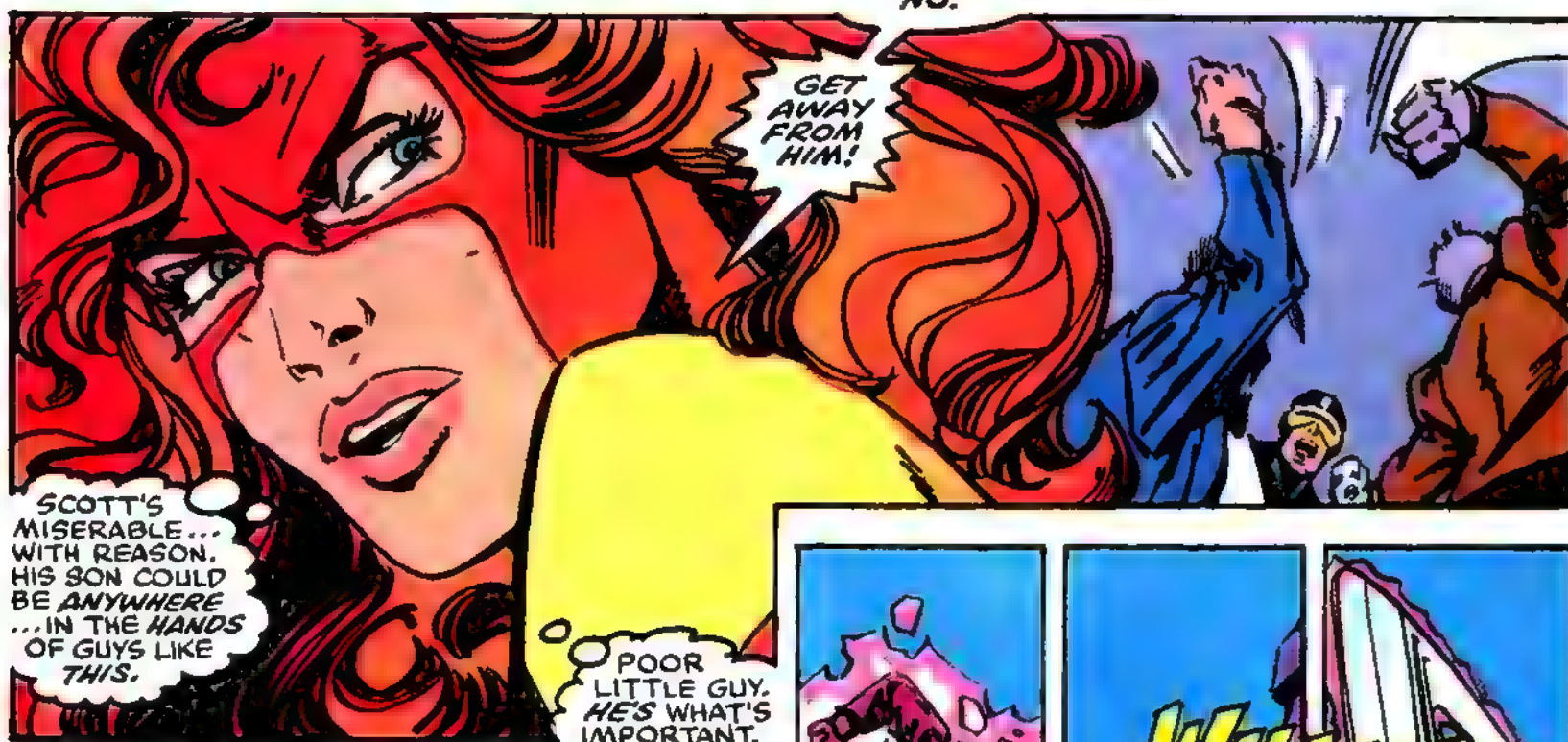
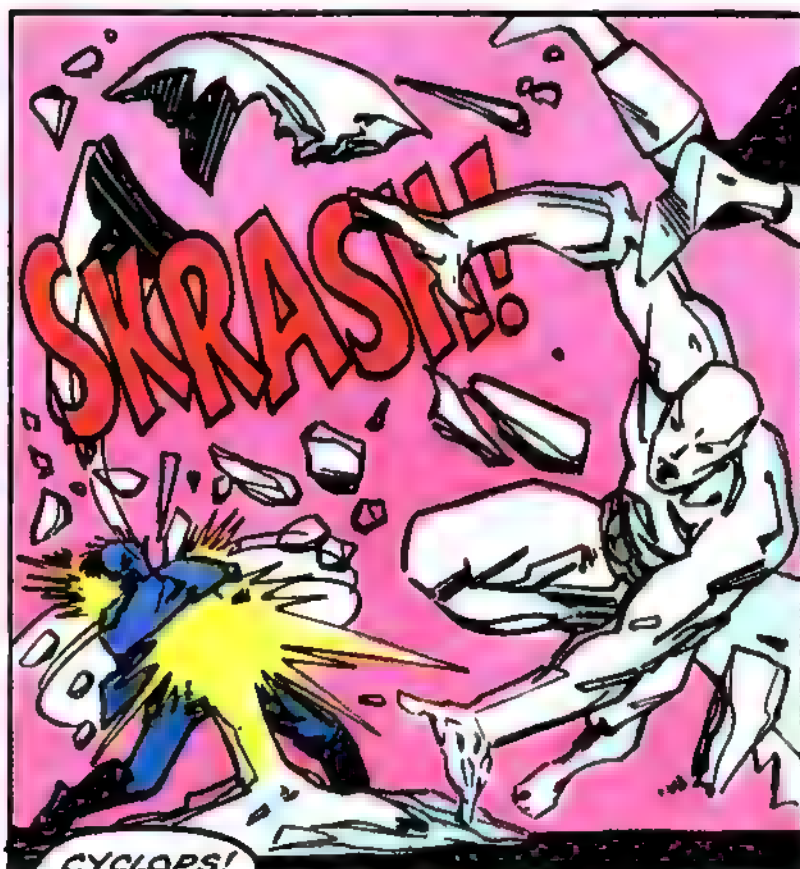
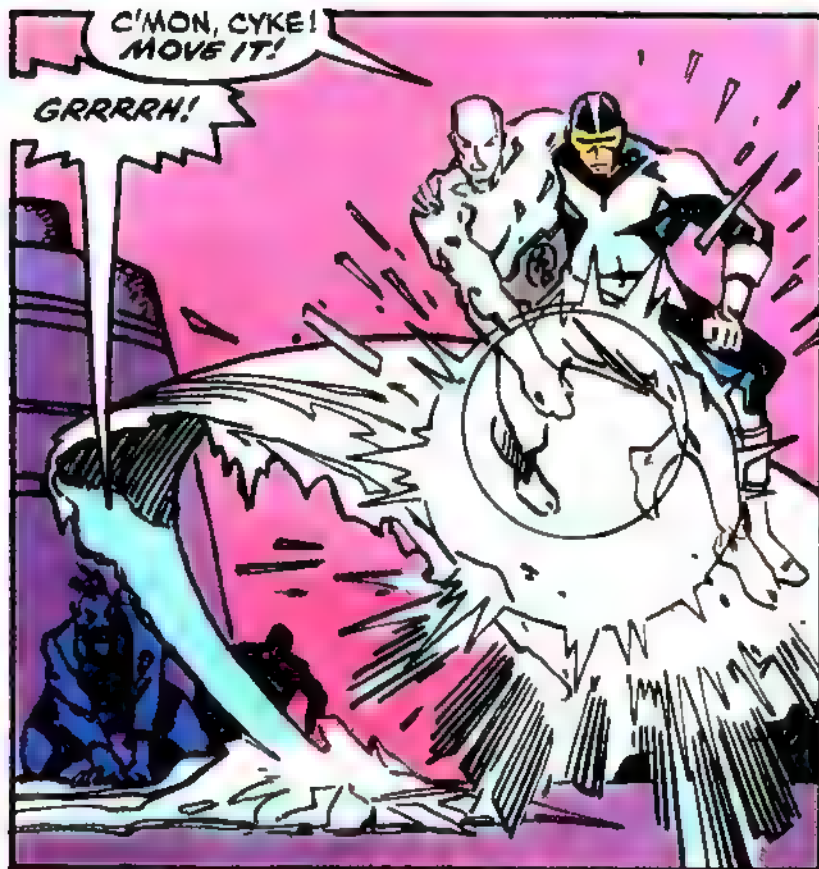
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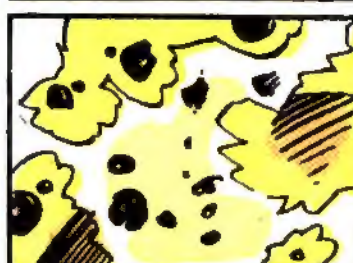
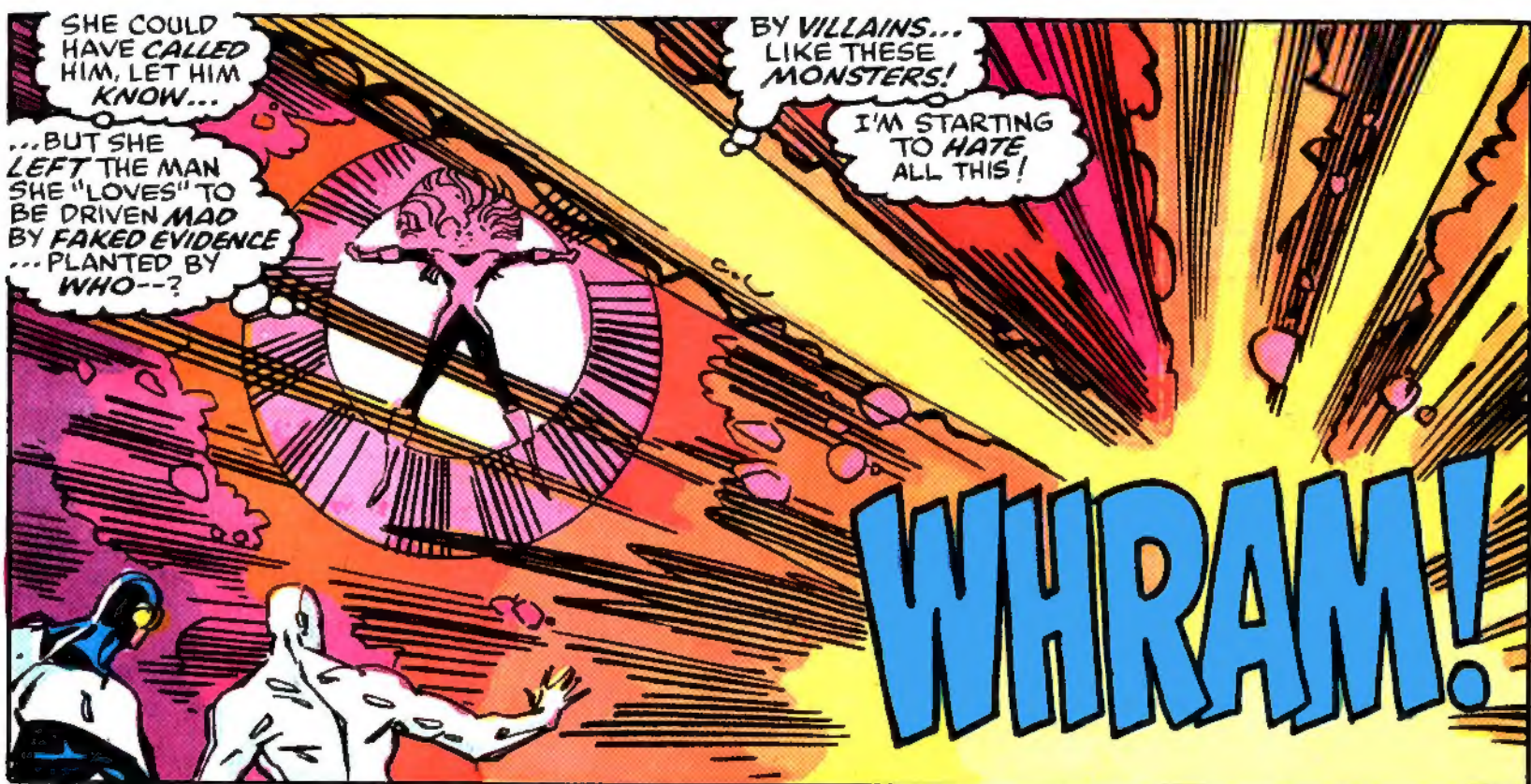
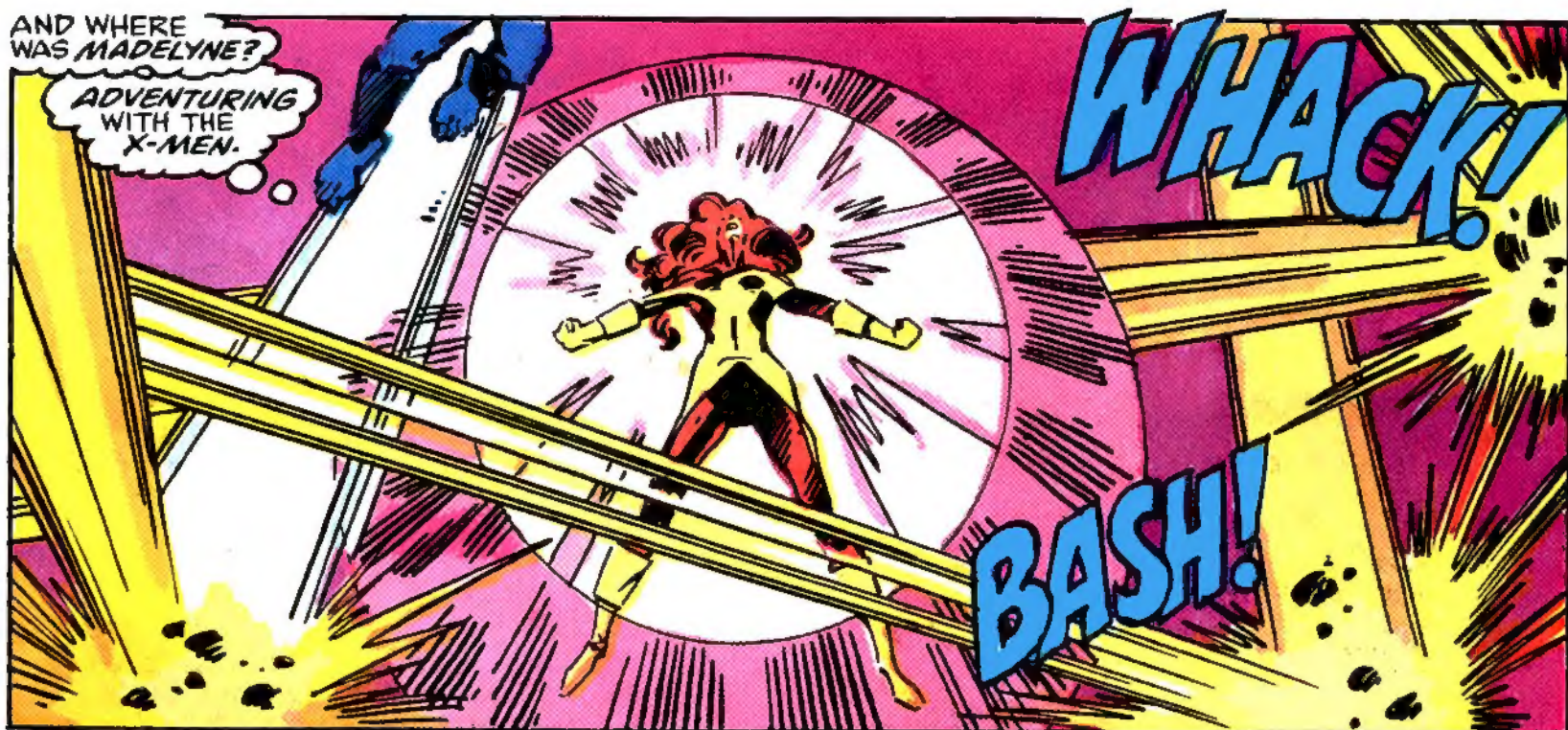
- ☐ SIX FROM SIRIUS Trade Paperback

- ☐ THE PUNISHER AND DAREDEVIL Trade Paperback — Re-presenting from DAREDEVIL #s 182–184. Written and penciled by Frank Miller and inked by Klaus Janson. 64 pages.
- ☐ CLOAK & DAGGER GRAPHIC NOVEL: "PREDATOR AND PREY" — Cloak finally discovers the reason for his insatiable hunger for light. Written by Bill Mantlo, penciled by Larry Stroman, and inked by Al Williamson.

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #148
- ☐ MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #83
- ☐ G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE #10
- ☐ CONAN SAGA #13
- ☐ THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS #8







NO! THEY WEREN'T MONSTERS. THEY WERE MEN... ...AND I KILLED THEM...

JEAN... DON'T...



YOU'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE! NORMAL PEOPLE DON'T DO ...ANY OF THAT. THEY WERE UNDER SOME KIND OF SPELL...OR--

SCOTT...!

HOW CAN MADELYNE LET HER OWN BABY BE CARRIED OFF BY SOME MONSTER...TAKEN ANYWHERE... &

SCOTT, YOU'RE A WONDERFUL MAN. THE BEST.

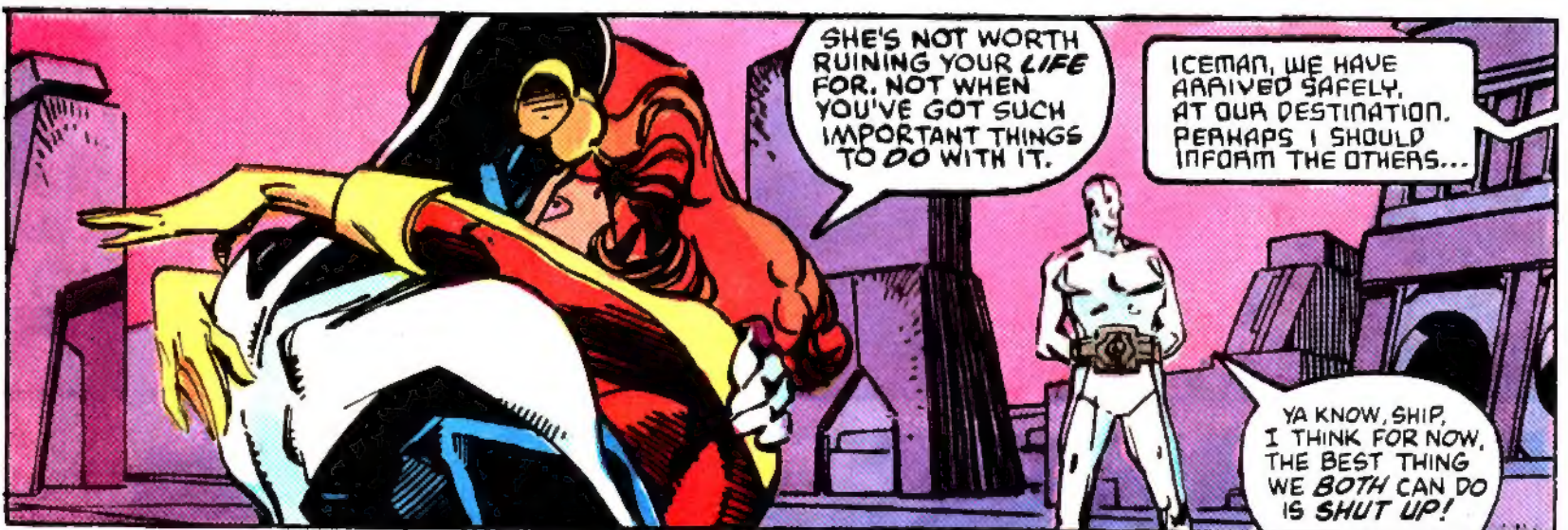


I THINK... SHE'S PRACTICALLY A MONSTER HERSELF...OR MAYBE JUST A JERK OR MAYBE SHE'S CRAZY.

I'LL HELP YOU FIND YOUR SON ...YOU JUST TRY AND STOP ME...

BUT, SCOTT... DON'T LET HER REACH BEYOND THE GRAVE AND TORTURE YOU INTO MAKING YOURSELF CRAZY, TOO.

...RATHER THAN COME TO YOU FOR HELP.



SHE'S NOT WORTH RUINING YOUR LIFE FOR. NOT WHEN YOU'VE GOT SUCH IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO WITH IT.

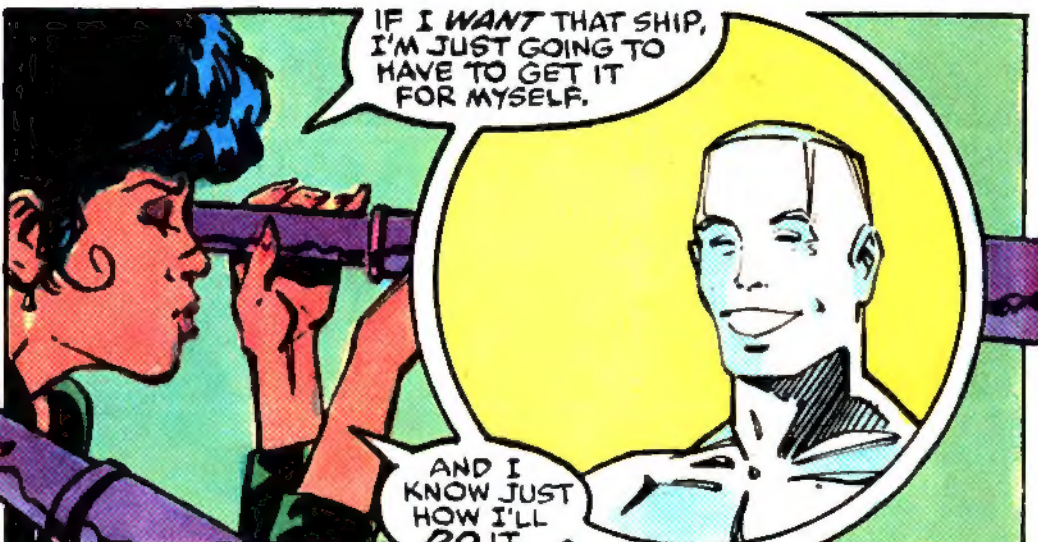
ICEMAN, WE HAVE ARRIVED SAFELY. AT OUR DESTINATION. PERHAPS I SHOULD INFORM THE OTHERS...

YA KNOW, SHIP, I THINK FOR NOW, THE BEST THING WE BOTH CAN DO IS SHUT UP!



MEANWHILE...

I GUESS IT'S TO BE EXPECTED. I MADE THEM THE BEST I COULD, BUT THEY SIMPLY DON'T HAVE ANY... STAYING POWER.



IF I WANT THAT SHIP, I'M JUST GOING TO HAVE TO GET IT FOR MYSELF.

AND I KNOW JUST HOW I'LL DO IT.

NEXT: The DATING GAME or... KISS OF DEATH!
BE HERE IN 30!

X-CHANGES

BOB HARRAS: editor - BOBBIE CHASE: assistant editor

© MARVEL COMICS GROUP - 587 Park Avenue South - New York, New York - 10018
Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Bobs,
X-FACTOR is one of my favorite comics, and I have continued to read it for one main reason — the kids! It is fun to see the adventures they have like the one in issue #22. I'm happy to see Boom-Boom back. Finally, we get to see who The Right's leader is — as if we didn't know. Cameron Hodge is a crummy character and you should kill him off. I'm glad that the "Jean is Phoenix" storyline is over. I am still upset that the storyline about Madelyne isn't. The present story in THE X-MEN shows a major tie-in is on the way. When are we going to see Death? In the upcoming update of THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE will Warren's file be under "Angel" or "Death"?

Till Apocalypse joins Alpha Flight, Make Mine Marvel!

G. Jeffrey Barrus
228 Hager Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Well, G. Jeffrey, now that you've seen Death, we hope he lived up to your expectations! (Boy, does that sound weird!) We're sorry to say that he didn't make it in time for the MARVEL UNIVERSE UPDATE. Maybe the UPDATE of the UPDATE...

Dear X-Folks,

Wow, it's almost been two years since X-FACTOR #1 hit the newsstands! What a lot of changes have happened in those two years — starting with the Beast being changed back into human form up to the death and reading of Angel's will.

Issue #22 had a lot of action in it, starting with the attack of the robots and then finding out that Cameron Hodge was in charge of the destruction of X-Factor. Ever since the beginning, I never really liked that guy. I think that there are a few things that you guys should do and I also have a few questions to ask...

Let's see more X-Factor/X-Terminator action against some of the old X-Men's enemies or maybe even the new X-Men. Or maybe they could just meet them.

I think you need new kids for X-Factor to train. I mean, let's get some more powerful kids in their place — not kids that have force fields around them or can shake things. Whoopie!

When is Scott or Jean going to meet Madelyne? And is Scott going to save his kid from the Marauders?

Let's get this thing with Angel, or Death — whatever he's called these days — out in the air and not drag it on for who knows how many issues.

Well, guys, in almost two years you've brought us from the happiness of Jean being reunited with Scott to the sadness of Angel's suicide. Let's keep up the good work and bring back the Alliance of Evil. Please!

Dave Kessinger
13 Heatherwood Drive
Dillsburg, PA 17019

With all of their present troubles, now you're wishing the Alliance of Evil on X-

Factor, Dave? Now, that's not very nice, is it?

Dear Louise and Co.,

My congratulations on one of the best issues of X-FACTOR to date. At a time when, unfortunately, the majority of Marvel's books leave me cold, this one is definitely a relief. I know that when I pick up X-FACTOR every month I won't be cringing like I am with so many others at the bad handling of good characters. When the book first came out, I was furious that Jean had been resurrected. To me, it seemed that all the drama, all the emotion, all the love, that X-MEN #137 had brought was cheaply trashed to bring Jean back and give Scott a new problem to cry about. Hank not blue and furry? Why? And had Bobby become afflicted with a disease that regressed him to the immaturity of X-MEN #1? Sure seemed like it. Scott leaving Maddy was a slap in the face any way you look at it. It was a lousy thing to do. Do you realize that his son was never named?

Enough. At least it's over. And somehow I think Jean sort of feels the same way I do — we don't understand what happened or why, but we'll stick around to see what comes next.

Boom-Boom's back — yaaay! I don't know why, but I've come to really like the little terror. Rictor, too, although I didn't like him at first. The kids are very real to me, like I know them. I like to see them struggle with their powers and learn to use them bit by bit. The New Mutants, it seemed to me, just picked up the hang of their powers awfully quick.

What I think I like best is the role of Scott and company as teachers — the way Professor X was. The Beast got pushed around so much for so long that I'd swear the Professor hadn't taught him anything. Scott, too. Although his fight with Master Mold was more of what I'd like to see. And Bobby's hyped-up powers are great, but let him work for a while yet to control it, the way the kids have to. I can't wait to see how the Beast's powers get upped. Better give Caliban a booster shot, too — he's too good a character to leave at home every mission. Oh, did I mention that the resurrection of Angel as Death is probably the best move made with Warren since he was created? No? Well, I think it is. As a matter of fact, I think you've got a real winner on your hands. One that the industry has been kind of lacking lately.

Make it work — because it deserves to work. You have breathed new life into heroes stale for years now. Thanks for that.

Bill Murphy
5404 Transit Road
Depew, NY 14043

And we've only just begun, Bill...

Dear Louise,

This letter is directed primarily towards you as the scripter of X-FACTOR, but it could apply to any number of comic writers today. I hope this doesn't end up sounding too prudish, but I am writing to complain about the dialogue in X-FACTOR. When I started to read comics as a teenager, one of the arguments that I used to persuade my parents that comics had redeeming qualities

was that I was expanding my vocabulary by reading them. Some Marvel Comics characters — notably Reed Richards and the Beast — were renowned for the brooding words they would use. As the preceding sentence indicates, I myself started using a lot of the words that I first saw in comics. Alas, if I were in my formative years today I would be picking up words like "wanna," and "gonna" and I would never use the word "to," but would instead pronounce it as "ta." It seems that the adult X-Factor members are generally presented as having good vocabularies, however the Beast is not as loquacious as he once was. My main gripe is directed against the way the teenagers in the group are scripted, for they are always speaking in slang.

I can already guess what some of the rejoinders to my criticism will be. First, you are just trying to script the teenagers as real teenagers talk. Be that as it may, real teenagers do not cause earthquakes or have impenetrable force-fields. Comics depict life as it might be, not as it is. I doubt if there were many teenagers in the sixties with the speech patterns of Hank McCoy. Secondly, what does it really matter? Are kids really going to emulate the speech patterns of comic book characters? I don't feel qualified to give a definite answer, but I think that to some extent they do. I know that I did.

In the final analysis, I do not really expect you to write each character as if he/she were an Oxford scholar. However, I do wish that you would — make Rictor and his young friends say "to" instead of "ta," bring back the articulate Hank McCoy of old, perhaps depict one of the teenagers as starting to take after Hank in the way he talks. Who knows? Perhaps you will help to inspire a young Edwin Newman, or William Buckley.

Bill Farrand
248 West Mill Road
Long Valley, NJ 07853

You have an extremely valid point, Bill, and one that we promise to be more aware of in the future. While we don't want to sacrifice any of our hard-earned realism we also don't want to ignore our responsibility — to our readers or our characters. Thanks for the help.

X-People,

X-FACTOR #23 — I love it! The original X-Men once more working as a team — reminds me of the old days. Cyke as the natural leader. The Beast cracking jokes. Iceman being cocky. And Jean being sexy, sweet, and clever.

Now do me a favor or two—

End the mutant-hunter aspect of the book. Exterminate the name "X-Terminators." Spin the mutant kids off into their own title — "X-ADOLESCENTS." Bring back the Angel — he could be the team's Wolverine. Especially since he, too, had his anatomy toyed with. I'd be mad, too. Put Scott and Jean back together and headed for the altar. Let them all live happily ever after.

Nah, skip the last one — that would be too boring.

Lon Wolf
2118 Ryan's Run East
Maple Shade, NJ 08052

Well, then, three out of five ain't bad, Lon. And we're working on a limited series as you read this featuring the kids, scripted by Weezle and penciled by POWER PACK penciler Jon Bogdanove, it'll be a must for mutant maniacs everywhere! How's that for pleasing the customers?

MINUTEMEN



SLIPPER

BOR